My Life in Music

(Second Edition)

by D. J. Pentecost

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To Kai and other members of my family

To anyone interested in classical piano music

I was inspired to write the first edition of this autobiography, after being asked to deliver an illustrated lecture to the music group of the Limassol branch of the U3A in 2017. I have continued working during the last three years, and it is necessary to update the book.

FOREWORD

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If you choose to download the book, you can also print it, if you wish. The left and right page margins have been set up to accommodate traditional binding. The book has been designed for printing on A4 size paper.

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Chapter 1: Childhood

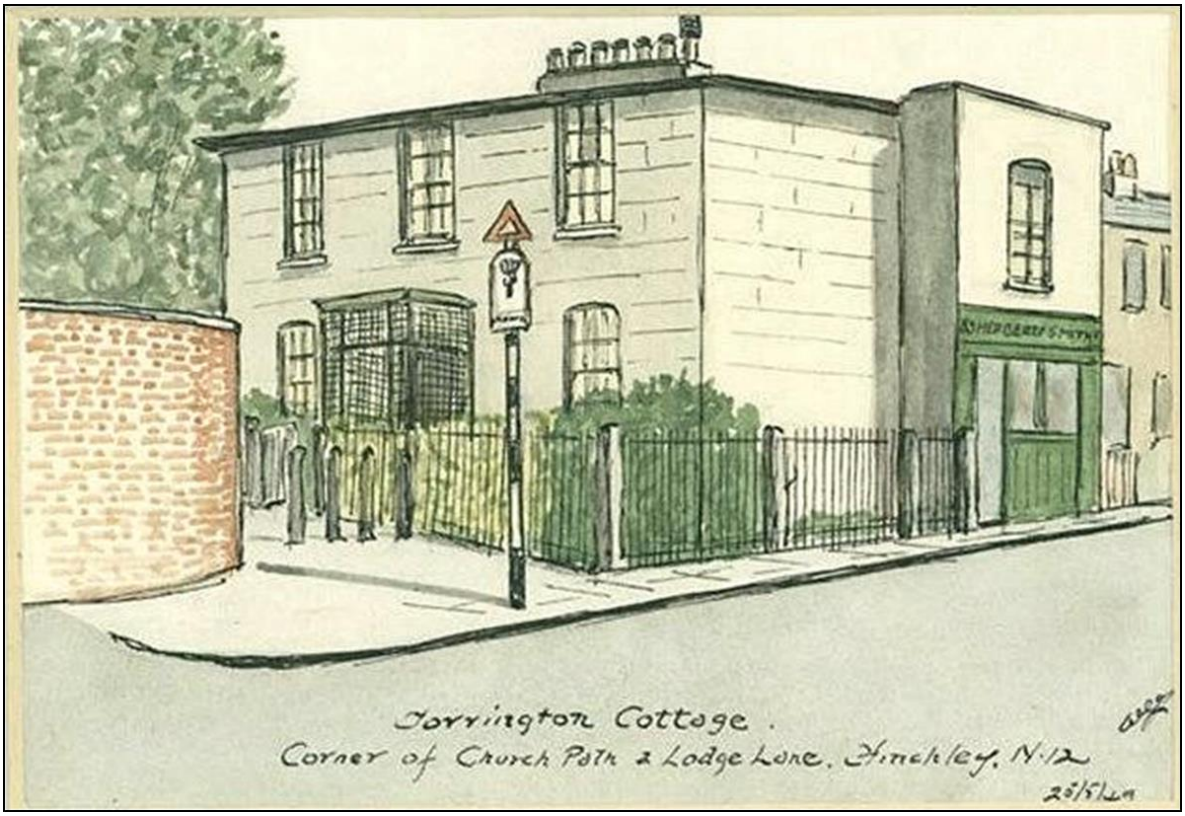
Torrington Cottage location

This aerial shot shows where I was brought up, in Torrington Cottage, North Finchley, in the white house at the centre right of the photo, with the dark roof and white chimney pots on top. Attached to the house you can see a row of small workmen's cottages, which were owned by Charles Jaques, who had Torrington Cottage built for himself; these properties were constructed in the late 1820s. My family at first rented, and then owned Torrington Cottage, for a total of 99 years, until my brother and I sold it following our father's death in 2002. It was with my half of the sale proceeds that I bought a flat in Limassol. I lived in Torrington Cottage for the 26 years from 1940 to the end of 1965.

You can see that next to our house is Royal Mail's sorting office, with its red collection vans in the yard. Between the sorting office and our house, is a narrow path, called Church Path, which runs from Whetstone, all the way south to the parish church of St Mary, in Hendon Lane, at Finchley Central. I used to walk along this path, and turn right into Woodside Park Road, (at the top of the photo), then on for about 150 metres, to my music teacher's house for piano lessons.

Below, you can see Torrington Cottage as it was in 1949, when I was aged 9. I remember it well, and it was much prettier then, with its porch (now demolished) protecting the front door. The ground floor room on the near corner, just to the right of the school sign, is where my maternal grandmother's piano was kept.

She must have bought it second-hand, for my mother to learn to play on. I remember fiddling with the keyboard, when I must have been about four years old. The keys were yellowed, the piano had not been tuned for years, and some of the keys didn't work properly.



Torrington Cottage – my home in 1949. (Reproduced with permission from Barnet Libraries)

19th Century piano with candlesticks

You can see above, a piano similar to my grandmother's piano, with its two swiveling candlesticks. Candles were essential for seeing the music in the days when these pianos were made, for there was then no electricity supply.

I think it must have been in 1946, when my parents bought a better second-hand piano, having decided that I should take lessons. I don't have a photo of the piano, but it looked similar to the one below. I think that my mother may have started trying to teach me, although I have no memory of this.

A piano similar to the first one on which I played

She knew of a music teacher in the next road, Woodside Park Road, I think at number 12, on the north side of the road, towards High Road. Her name was Amelia Hills, and she lived in the house with her brother, who was also a pianist. Miss Hills had what was then known as an iron leg. She was a polio victim, and was able to walk by swinging the bad leg from the hip; her leg was kept straight by a metal brace which supported it. I think it must have been very uncomfortable for her to move, but I never heard her complain.

I took weekly half-hour lessons with Miss Hills from about the middle of 1946. My mother walked with me to Miss Hills' home for the lessons during the first year or two, and later I went by myself.

The lessons were of course for simple children's tunes initially, and later exclusively for classical music. Most of the music did not appeal to me, and as a result, I sometimes did not practise very much, and a week would go by without my having touched the piano, until about an hour before the next lesson was due. I had lessons for about six years, and throughout that period, I was entered for three exams (primary, elementary and intermediate) at the London College of Music, and I passed them all.

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PRIMARY EXAMINATION

PASS CERTIFICATE.

SUBJECT—Pianoforte Playing

This is to Certify that David John Pentecost has duly fulfilled the requirements of the Examiner in the above Examination.

Pupil of Miss A. E. Hills.

By order of the Council Cecil Cochrane, M.A., Mus.B.

Date 10th April 1948 Examiner.

The first of my three certificates

For these exams, Miss Hills tried to teach me some music theory, including the subject of intervals, but I never understood intervals properly at all, perhaps because I did not understand their purpose. To this day I do not fully understand intervals, and have never needed to know what they are, even for composing. I suppose that much of music theory has passed me by, throughout my life. You do not need to understand any music theory in order to enjoy music, not very much to play it, and little more to compose.

During the last two or three years of lessons, I remember my mother giving me fifteen shillings (75p) to pay for the lesson. I suppose that was quite a lot of money in 1952.

Miss Hills arranged a little music party at her home for some of her students, once or twice a year. It was the only occasion when we met our fellow music students, except that one did sometimes meet those who had the lessons before and after one's own lesson.

Me at about age 9, when I was learning to play the violin

My best friend at primary school was Mervyn Copsey. He lived in Woodside Park Road, not far from Miss Hills' house, where he also had lessons, but on the violin. Perhaps because of him, I agreed to have violin lessons, and my mother bought a second-hand violin for me. I cannot remember whether I continued with piano lessons as well, or whether they stopped temporarily. The violin lessons were for about two years, from age nine to ten I think.

The local authority organised some kind of music event for youngsters, around 1950, for putting on a concert. Perhaps it was for the 1951 Festival of Britain. I decided to enter for the violin rather than piano, which was not a sensible decision, when I reflect on it now, considering that I had been playing the violin for a much shorter time. We all went somewhere locally for auditioning, but I was not successful. I still remember the first few bars of the piece of music which I played, but I have no idea of the composer or the title. I do recall that I did not play it very well, so I was not surprised to be rejected.

I was not enjoying the violin as much as the piano, and I found it more difficult, so I gave it up. Miss Hills suggested that I get a book of easy classics for the piano, which she showed me. At last it had some music which I enjoyed. The first piece which really attracted me was Chopin's Prelude Op.28, No.7. It is one of the shortest, simplest and most beautiful pieces which Chopin wrote, and it is also easy to play. It is very often the case with music, that there is one small section, which is difficult or even impossible to play for most people; in this case, it is not even a section, but just a single chord, which is impossible for anyone who does not have large hands. It is in bar 12 (or 13 if you count the introductory bar). Other editions of

this work show the chord being played with fewer notes, or as an arpeggio, which is more practical. The prelude is below.

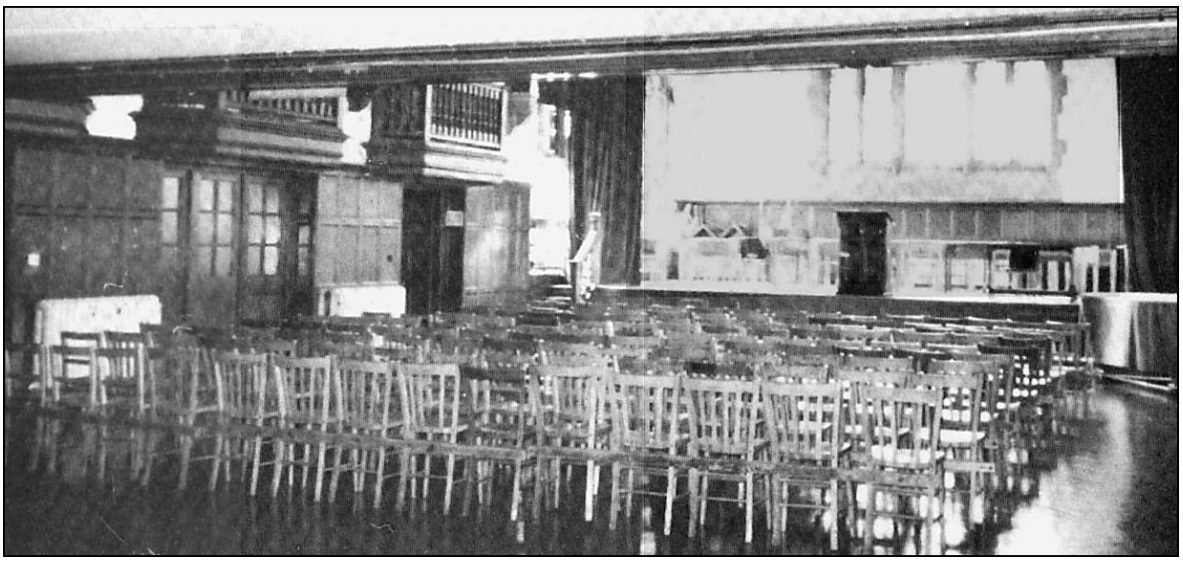
PRELUDE

in A

F. CHOPIN, Op. 28, No. 7

Andantino

I think I gave up piano lessons at age about 13, after I had started at grammar school, perhaps because nearly all my available time was taken up with hours of homework every evening. But I did not give up the piano, because when the school learned that I played, I was asked to play two or three times a week, at the morning school assemblies, for a few years, sharing the duty with the Latin teacher. So I had to learn to play many hymns, which mostly were not difficult. At first, I found it a bit nerve wracking, but I soon got used to playing before a few hundred boys and some of the teachers, in the school hall.



The hall, from the Christ's College, Finchley school archives

Christ's College, Finchley, school hall

It was not only hymns though. I had to be first into the school hall, playing something classical, while everyone assembled, and until the headmaster arrived, to begin the short service. If he was late, which occasionally happened, I had to keep playing, and that meant having some extra sheet music available, rather than repeating the same piece.

There were some embarrassing moments. I was on the stage, sitting with my back to the people in the hall, so I could not see what was happening without looking round frequently, to find out if the headmaster had arrived on the stage. Sometimes I heard him climbing the wooden stairs; if I didn't, someone in the choir sitting near me would tell me to stop playing.

On one occasion, I decided to play a long classical piece – by Beethoven, and it was the opening movement of the Moonlight sonata. I was about three quarters of the way through it, when I became aware that the headmaster had arrived, but I didn't know how to stop the music in a sensible way with a good ending; so I just carried on! The choir members were whispering to me, louder and louder, that I must stop, but I ignored them. I don't really know why. I should just have stopped, but I carried on to the end – it must have been for more than a minute. Anyway, fortunately for me, the headmaster just stood there, patiently waiting for the end; and he said nothing afterwards. But I was so embarrassed!

There was another occasion when I was playing a hymn. It would quite frequently happen that to save time, the headmaster would announce something like. ”We will sing hymn 453, verses one, two and five”. I would have to remember that I should play only three verses, followed by the Amen – potential there for trouble! Or sometimes, I would have to play the tune of one hymn to the words of another.

I think it was the second of these situations which tripped me up once. I realised that I didn’t know how many verses there were for the hymn being sung, because the verses were on a different page from the one on which I was reading the music. I found myself at one point starting the next verse when there wasn’t one! Everyone was singing Amen, when I was half way through the first line of a non-existent next verse. That was a shambles, and I can laugh about it now!

After the services, I had to play something else, while the hall emptied; then I had to rush to my first class of the day.

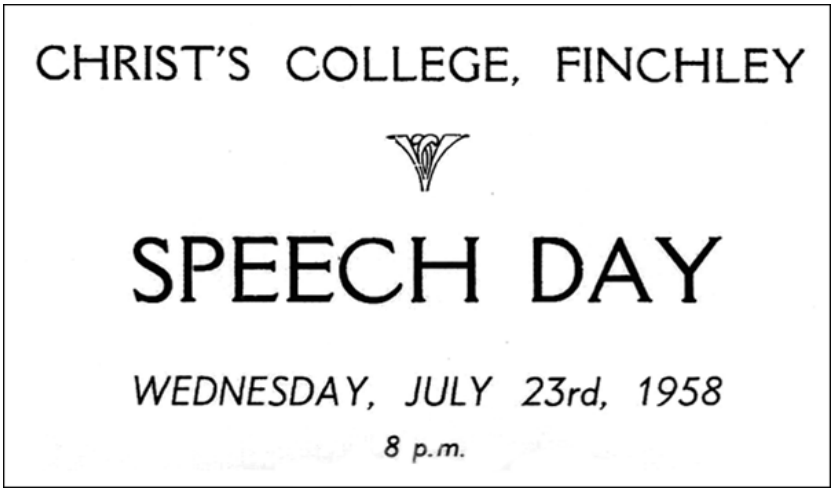
It was at the end of the summer term in 1958, when the annual school Speech Day was held on one evening in July. Parents and guests were invited to the school, hearing often boring speeches.

But there was always also some entertainment, and I had been asked to play something. At that time, the Warsaw Concerto was very popular, and it was a work for piano and orchestra, but I was determined to play it somehow.

I found and bought a full version, arranged for piano solo, by the composer, Richard Addinsell. It was wonderful, but parts of it were too difficult for me, and it was too long. Then I found a simplified version, which I was able to play. But it was too simple, and it omitted some of my favourite passages of the melody.

So I worked out a combination of both versions, by sticking together sheets of the music from both versions, and crossing out some passages which I did not want. I played the resulting arrangement quite well.

Here are two extracts from the Speech Day programme: part of the cover page, and the full programme of music:


CHRIST'S COLLEGE, FINCHLEY

SPEECH DAY

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23rd, 1958

8 p.m.

Programme of Music

The choir under the direction of
MRS. J. N. HOWARD, F.L.C.M., L.R.A.M.

At the piano:
MR. F. BARBER, M.A.

1.	UNISON SONG	Morning and Evening FULL CHOIR	*George Dyson*
2.	UNISON SONG WITH DESCANT	Brother James' Air FORM IIB	*Arr. Gordon Jacob*
3.	TWO-PART SONGS	(a) Five Eyes (b) When Evening Shadows FESTIVAL CHOIR	*Armstrong Gibbs* *Martini*
4.	PIANOFORTE SOLO	Theme from the Warsaw Concerto D. J. PENTECOST	*R. Addinsell*
5.	UNISON SONG	Rose Among the Heather A. J. LANGE, B. P. GAITES, K. V. ELLEN, J. S. PERKINS, R. C. WOODHALL, R. N. KIRBY, M. H. D. BIRD	*Schubert*
6.	TWO-PART SONG CANON	(a) The Lark in the Clear Air (b) The Ride of the Witch FULL CHOIR	*Arr. Alec Rowley* *Charles Wood*
7.	TWO-PART SONG	All in the April Evening D. R. B. ROBERTS, R. E. HADAWAY, J. R. W. GRAVES, R. MACE	*Hugh S. Roberton*
8.	FOUR-PART SONG	Waltzing Matilda	*Arr. Thomas Wood* *Melody, Marie Cowan*
9.	COMMUNITY SONG	Rule, Britannia (The audience is requested to join in the chorus)	*Dr. Arne, 1740*

When Britain first at heaven's command
Arose from out the azure main,
Arose, arose, arose from out the azure main,
This was the charter, the charter of the land,
And guardian angles sang the strain—
Rule, Britannia! Britannia, rule the waves!
Britons never, never, never shall be slaves.

Chorus: Rule, Britannia! Britannia, rule the waves!
Britons never, never, never shall be slaves.

Still more majestic thou shalt rise,
More dreadful from each foreign stroke,
More dreadful, dreadful, dreadful from each foreign stroke;
As the loud blast, the blast that tears the skies,
Serves but to root thy native oak.
Rule, Britannia! Britannia, rule the waves!
Britons never, never, never shall be slaves.

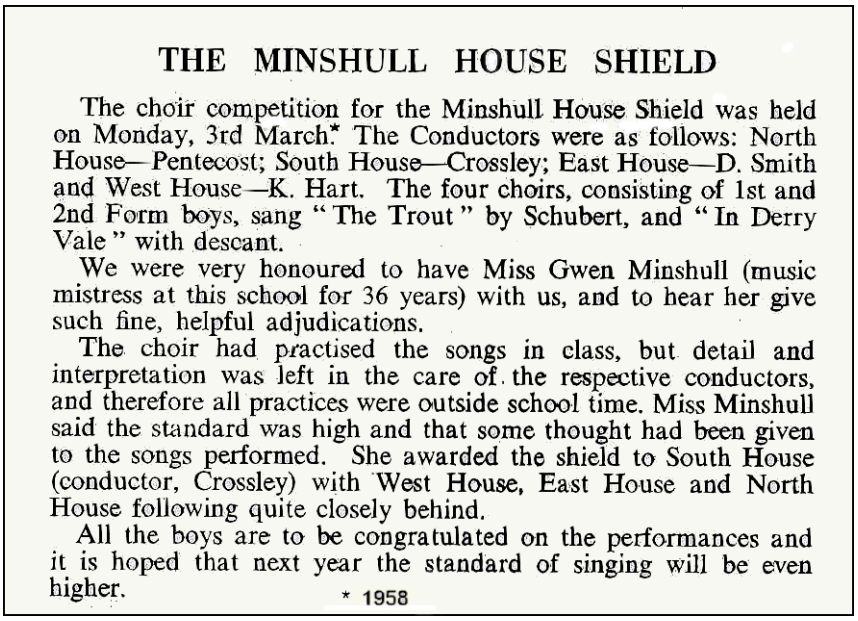
Chorus: Rule, Britannia! etc.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

The Headmaster invites the Official Guests of the School, the Masters, the School Prefects, and any Old Boys who may be present to tea and biscuits in the Dining Room after the proceedings. He regrets he cannot extend this invitation to any others.

School Speech Day, 23rd July 1958

In February 1958, the school's music teacher, Gwen Minshull, who had been at the school for decades, announced that there would be a house choir competition. The school was divided into four competitive houses, and mine was North House. She selected the boys who were to sing in each of the four choirs. Under protest, I was put in charge, as conductor for North House. I was chosen because I had some knowledge about music; it mattered not that I had zero knowledge about conducting, and as it turned out, very little ability at the art, as well as being pretty useless at organising boys to practise singing.



THE MINSHULL HOUSE SHIELD

The choir competition for the Minshull House Shield was held on Monday, 3rd March* The Conductors were as follows: North House—Pentecost; South House—Crossley; East House—D. Smith and West House—K. Hart. The four choirs, consisting of 1st and 2nd Form boys, sang "The Trout" by Schubert, and "In Derry Vale" with descant.

We were very honoured to have Miss Gwen Minshull (music mistress at this school for 36 years) with us, and to hear her give such fine, helpful adjudications.

The choir had practised the songs in class, but detail and interpretation was left in the care of the respective conductors, and therefore all practices were outside school time. Miss Minshull said the standard was high and that some thought had been given to the songs performed. She awarded the shield to South House (conductor, Crossley) with West House, East House and North House following quite closely behind.

All the boys are to be congratulated on the performances and it is hoped that next year the standard of singing will be even higher.

* 1958

Above is the report from the school magazine 'The Finchleian' of July 1958.

I hated the entire experience, and I could not get the choir members to show any enthusiasm in the practice sessions. It was only on the day of the competition, 3rd March 1958, that the choir, to my astonishment, produced some much better singing. If only they had sung like that in practice, we might have won the competition. But we took last place, which was no surprise to me.

During the period when I was having piano lessons, I wanted to give up on several occasions. At those times, I had no enthusiasm for the instrument, or perhaps more particularly for the music which I was learning, especially for the exercises, scales, arpeggios, and the music theory, about which I understood little. However, my mother forced me to continue, and without this pressure from her, I am sure that I would never have had the musical life which in later years I enjoyed so much. What I owe her is inestimable.

Attempts to compose

I made some feeble attempts to compose music as a youngster, but I never got very far. The main problem for me was that the process was too tedious and impossibly time-consuming, so I gave up. Also I found it difficult to keep a melody in my head long enough to write it down on paper. I marveled at those geniuses, like Beethoven, for whom the task was so much easier than it was for me.

Chapter 2: Pop music

As a teenager, I became hooked on pop songs, and I bought the piano music for many 1950s and 1960s song hits. I still have the music for the following songs:

All I have to do is dream, All the way, Alone, April love, As I love you, Autumn concerto, Born too late, First row balcony, Let there be love, Love me forever, More than ever, Poor little fool, Remember you're mine, Silhouettes, Tammy, That'll be the day, The day the rains came, The lady is a tramp, Till, Volare, Wake up little Susie, Why don't they understand?, Witchcraft; and a few books of collected hit songs. A few times, I copied by hand someone else's copy of the sheet music, to save money; for there were no photocopiers in those days; an example is for *'You are my first love'*, which I still have as manuscript, written carefully in pencil.

But I was generally very disappointed that most of the songs did not work well as piano solos. The problem was that the music was not written for playing as a piano solo, nor as a proper vocal accompaniment, but as a cross between the two. These songs need to be considerably arranged, generally with far more notes, to be acceptable as piano solos. Too many songs had the same note repeated several times, which can work for the voice and a band, but not for solo piano. And syllables of a lyric which spread over several notes also work for the voice but cannot be replicated satisfactorily on the piano.

Rock & Roll music sounds really terrible, generally, on the piano. I was given the complete book of Beatles songs, but they nearly all sound dreadful when played on the piano as written. I found that very disappointing, because I love the Beatles' recordings.

Piano solos worked better for the slower ballades, especially for some 1920's and 1930s music, and including some of the slower 1920's jazz pieces, for example by W. C. Handy. *Stardust* written in 1929 by Hoagy Carmichael, works well, and so does *Forgotten Dreams*, a purely instrumental piece written in 1954 by Leroy Anderson, for orchestra and piano, and also as a piano solo. It was very rare for such a piece to become a hit for many consecutive weeks, but this was one.

I like some jazz, especially traditional jazz. In the mid-1950s, I sometimes went to hear jazz at the Humphrey Lyttleton Club, which for a time was at 100 Oxford Street in London, before that establishment became the 100 Club. I joined the club, but I did not attend very often, because I hated the smoky atmosphere.

My tastes in pop music during the 1950s are fairly well represented by the songs for which I bought the sheet music, already mentioned above. In the 1960s, my favourites were the Beatles; the 1970s for me were dominated by ABBA, until the group broke up, although I have followed Agnetha Fȁltskog's career since, as a solo singer. As I write (2020) I, and millions of others, await the long-delayed issue of ABBA's latest recordings, made I think around 2018. From the 1980s onwards, I have enjoyed the occasional outstanding pop song, but the new forms of sound, such as rap, punk and heavy metal, passed me by completely, as boring, too noisy, and largely lacking in melody.

I don't remember ever going to a pop concert until I was 69! Whilst on holiday visiting a friend in Finland, we took the boat across the Baltic to Estonia, and saw Madonna performing in a long concert in the capital, Tallinn. I was not particularly enthusiastic to go to the concert, but I did want to see beautiful old Tallinn. I was very surprised at how well Madonna sang and danced for such a long time; she had tremendous stamina and was truly brilliant.

Pop music from classical. There are more than 100 pop songs which are based on a classical work, usually on just a part of the work. I became, and still am, interested in these recordings. The first one which I remember noticing, is *"If I Had Words*", which was a 1978 UK hit song recorded by several artists; I remember being aware of hearing it somewhere before, although at the time I could not place its classical origin. It sold more than a million copies worldwide.

Perhaps the recording which best matches the original work, by Saint-Saens, can be found at www.youtube.com/watch?v=lM4QFqAHUX4. It was made by Dana Winner, the stage name of Chantal Vanlee, a Belgian singer, who was famous especially in Flanders, South Africa and the Netherlands.

The tune was taken from the main theme of the last movement of Saint-Saëns' organ Symphony, one of his finest works. Saint-Saëns said of this symphony: *"I gave everything to it I was able to give. What I have here accomplished, I will never achieve again".*

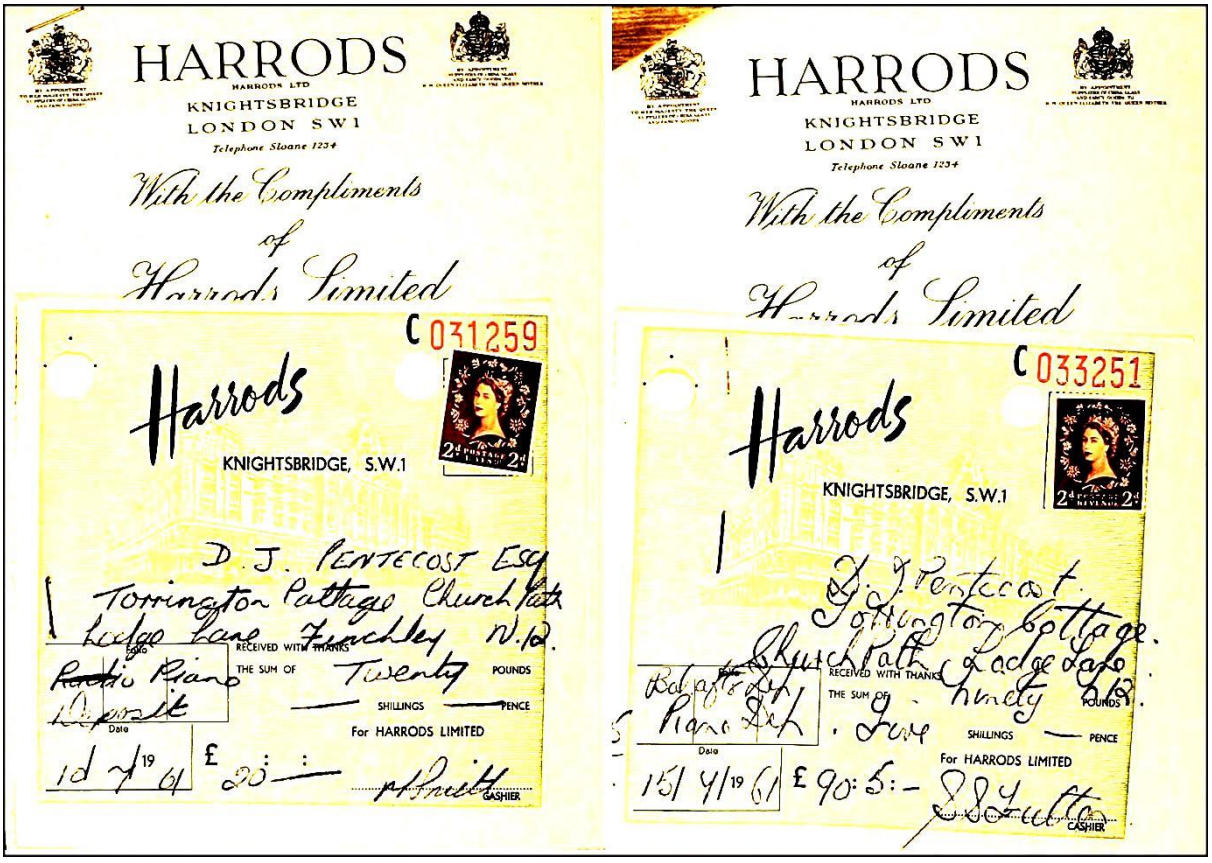
A performance in London at the Royal Albert Hall of the last movement of the organ symphony can be seen at www.youtube.com/watch?v=M68gT9XQMEw, and the theme used in the pop song, is best heard during the first two minutes of the recording. This recording is from a 2013 BBC Promenade Concert. The theme of the song is first heard quietly on the piano and violins; then after 1'12" the organ thunders in with the theme, until 1'53". The whole movement lasts 8'15".

Chapter 3: Buying a piano

By 1961, I was playing well enough to need to replace the piano which my parents had bought in 1946, and I had saved enough money to buy a good second-hand instrument. In July 1961, Harrods were holding a piano sale in their piano department on one of the upper floors of their store. I took the Underground train to central London, and walked from Knightsbridge station to the store, armed with a book of Chopin Impromptus, to see if I could find a piano which I liked the feel and sound of, and within my budget. I had chosen a particular Chopin work to play, (his Fantasy-Impromptu) which has a fast movement, and a slow romantic movement. I needed a piano with a keyboard which would allow me to play the fast movement without making my right arm ache, and I wanted the slow romantic movement not to sound harsh.

So I set about trying all the pianos within my budget, one by one. There were I should think about twenty of them to test. It took me an hour or two to choose, playing the same piece over and over again. I must have driven everyone mad with my repetitive playing. I whittled the pianos down to three, as I remember, and then two, and had some difficulty making up my mind between the two. I played that Chopin several times on both pianos, and I finally settled on a good Chappell instrument, which Harrods had reconditioned. I was delighted with it, and I put down a £20 deposit; the total price was £110 and 5 shillings. The piano was delivered about a week after I had paid the balance.

Here are the receipts:


HARRODS
HARRODS LTD
KNIGHTSBRIDGE
LONDON SW1
Telephone Sloane 1234
With the Compliments of Harrods Limited
C 031259
Harrods
KNIGHTSBRIDGE, S.W.1
D. J. PENTECOST ESQ
Torrington Pottage Church Path
Lodge Lane Finchley N.12.
RECEIVED WITH THANKS
Radio Piano
THE SUM OF Twenty POUNDS
Deposit
SHILLINGS PENCE
For HARRODS LIMITED
Date
1d 7 19 61
£ 20 : :
CASHIER
HARRODS
HARRODS LTD
KNIGHTSBRIDGE
LONDON SW1
Telephone Sloane 1234
With the Compliments of Harrods Limited
C 033251
Harrods
KNIGHTSBRIDGE, S.W.1
D. J. Pentecost.
Torrington Pottage.
Church Path, Lodge Lane.
RECEIVED WITH THANKS
Balance on Piano A/c
THE SUM OF Ninety Five POUNDS
SHILLINGS PENCE
For HARRODS LIMITED
Date
15 4 19 61
£ 90 : 5 : -
CASHIER

Harrods receipts for the piano I bought, aged 21

.

Chappell of Bond Street was a famous classical music company, founded in 1811, which had Beethoven, Richard Strauss and Charles Dickens as customers. The company later moved to larger premises in nearby Wardour Street, at the time when it was taken over early in the 21st century by Yamaha.

I wish that I had taken a photo of the piano, but alas, I can show below, only the photograph of a similar piano:

A Chappell piano

For the next five years, up to 1966, I bought lots of classical music, and played regularly. But for the following twenty years or so, I did not play very much.

But Kay and I did go to good concerts from time to time at the Festival Hall, the Barbican Hall, and to concerts local to Leighton Buzzard, where we lived.

Chapter 4: Organist

St Lawrence Jewry next Guildhall

In 1987, a partner at my employers, Coward Chance, a big law firm with offices at 5 Aldermanbury Square, near the Guildhall in the City of London, decided that the firm would put on a concert at the nearby church of St. Lawrence Jewry next Guildhall. Musicians were sought amongst the employees and a choir was formed. I volunteered to play the piano, the Steinway grand, which had been donated to the church by the widow of Sir Thomas Beecham.

Sir Thomas Beecham's Steinway

Having played very little in the years before 1987, I needed to choose pieces which were not difficult, so I opted for two Chopin waltzes, and began to practise them at home. One of them was Opus 69, No.1, which I had been taught at the age of about 11. I find nowadays that music which I learned as a child, comes back to me more easily than pieces learned in later years. This waltz is one of Chopin's compositions unpublished in his lifetime, all of which he had instructed should be destroyed at his death; fortunately for us, a friend refused to carry out his wishes.

The Coward Chance choir, decided that it would sing Fauré's Requiem, which the choristers practised at a room with a piano, in the office during the evenings. I was asked to accompany them, but I refused, saying that I could not, having had no experience at all accompanying singers. But I was almost forced to try, and as I predicted, I made a complete hash of it; someone from the choir took my place, and to my great relief, I was let off the future practice sessions.

The time for the concert was approaching, and one evening, we all assembled in the church for a rehearsal. Catherine Ennis, the church organist, accompanied the choir on Sir Thomas Beecham's piano for the Requiem.

On the evening of the concert, the church was packed with employees and friends. A guitarist played something first, to open proceedings, and I followed with my two Chopin Waltzes, which went down very well. That was a big relief for me, for I had not played before a significant audience for 30 years. The Requiem came next, this time with Catherine Ennis accompanying the choir on the organ. The performance was excellent; I acted as page turner for Catherine, so I had a close-up view of organ playing, for the first time in my life.

I was keen to try to play the organ, and I asked Catherine if she would teach me. To my delight and amazement, she agreed. I think that she normally did not do much teaching, but she had heard my piano playing, so she knew that she did not have to teach me very much.

Catherine Ennis is Organist and Director of Music. She has been on the staff of St Lawrence for over 30 years and is one of the most experienced organists in the country. She was a former President of The Royal College of Organists.

Catherine Ennis in the 1980s (L) and (R) from the St Lawrence Church website c.2016

Catherine's term as President of the Royal College of Organists ran from 2013 to 2015. It was she who took the photo of the church's Steinway piano for this book, and emailed it to me.

I had to learn how to work the controls of the organ, and most difficult of all, how to use my feet on the foot keyboard, known as the pedalboard. I had to buy a pair of lightweight, tight-fitting shoes with very thin soles, to give my feet good sensitivity for maximum feel of the keys. I discovered recently (2016) that one can now buy (probably then too) special organ shoes, with suede-like soles, for about £65.

Interior of St Lawrence Jewry

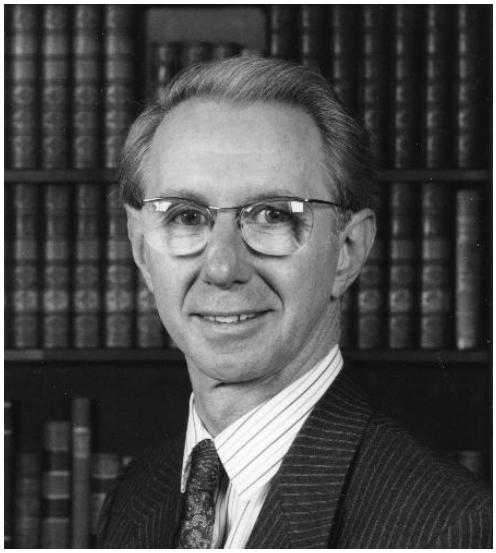
Above is a photo of the interior of the church. I had weekly lessons with Catherine for a few months. One piece I concentrated on learning, was one of my favourite organ works: Bach's Toccata & Fugue in D minor.

A big problem was that I needed to practise between the weekly lessons, and I could not use the St Lawrence organ. I tracked down the organist of St. Barnabas' Church in Linslade, near my home, and arranged to get a key to the church, to enable me to practise. He showed me the controls, and I was able to practise a few times each week.

Below is a picture of the Linslade church, two photos of me playing the organ at this church, taken by my father, c.1988, during a Saturday weekend visit from my parents' home in Finchley to Leighton Buzzard; also a formal photo of me at about the same time, taken while I worked at Coward Chance.

St. Barnabas' Church, Linslade

Me, playing the organ in Linslade



Me, around 1987

In St Barnabas' Church, Linslade

One day, I was playing the Bach Toccata & Fugue, and when I was about three quarters of the way through it, I heard the noise of a door, but I continued playing.

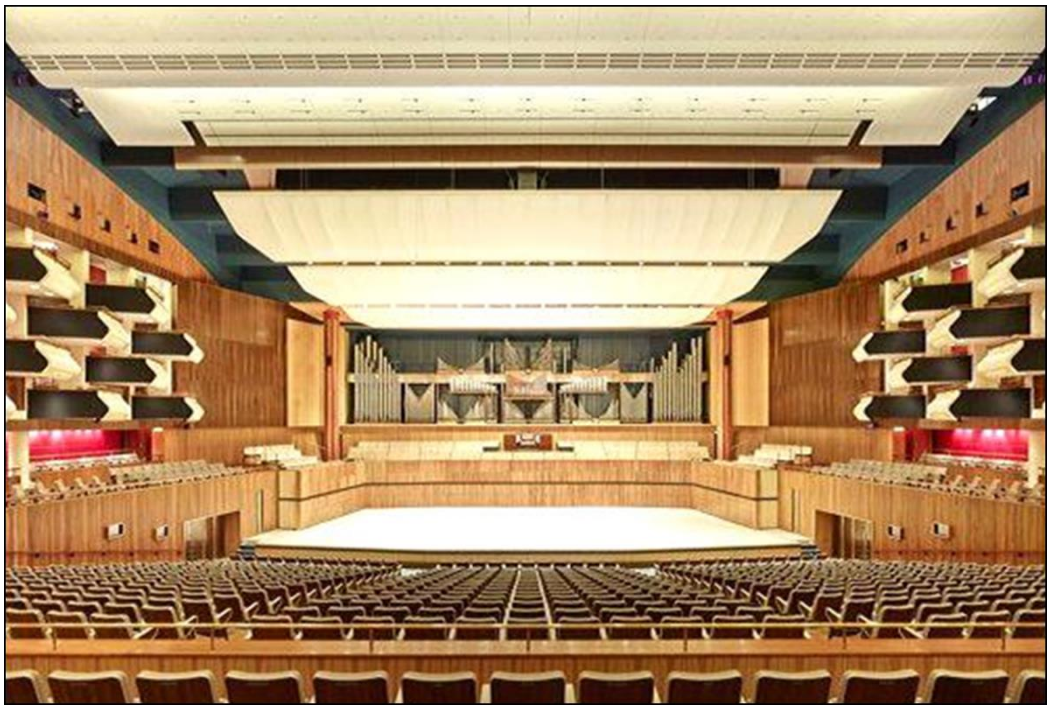
As I reached the end of the piece, I sensed a figure standing to my right. It was a surprise meeting with the vicar, whom I had never met. He said that he had heard the organ being played from outside the church, (I liked to play very loud with many stops out), and he had come in to investigate. He must have been a bit upset that he didn't know me, and he didn't know that I had been given a key to his church.

I explained about the key. He obviously decided to capitalise on the situation, and agreed to allow me to continue, if I would play a hymn or two at occasional baptism services; I was at first a bit horrified, but on reflection I didn't mind too much, because it gave me more practice time. So I agreed. The only inconvenience was the sometimes awkward time of day, usually at the weekends; but not at every weekend, fortunately.

As I mentioned before, my biggest problem was learning to work my feet, and much worse, co-ordinating them with my fingers. I had to adapt, to learn an awful lot, and I could at times sense my brain struggling, sometimes making me totally freeze! It was an enormous mental battle. Ideally, one should learn to use the feet at a young age – it must be so much easier then – like learning a language. The answer was to practise as much as possible; eventually the technique came, ever so slowly, although not completely. Mostly the 'black' keys were played with one's toes, and the 'white' keys with heels and toes. One had to annotate each note on the sheet music for the feet, with a little 'o' to represent the heel, and for the toes a 'v' (right foot) or 'ʌ' (left foot).

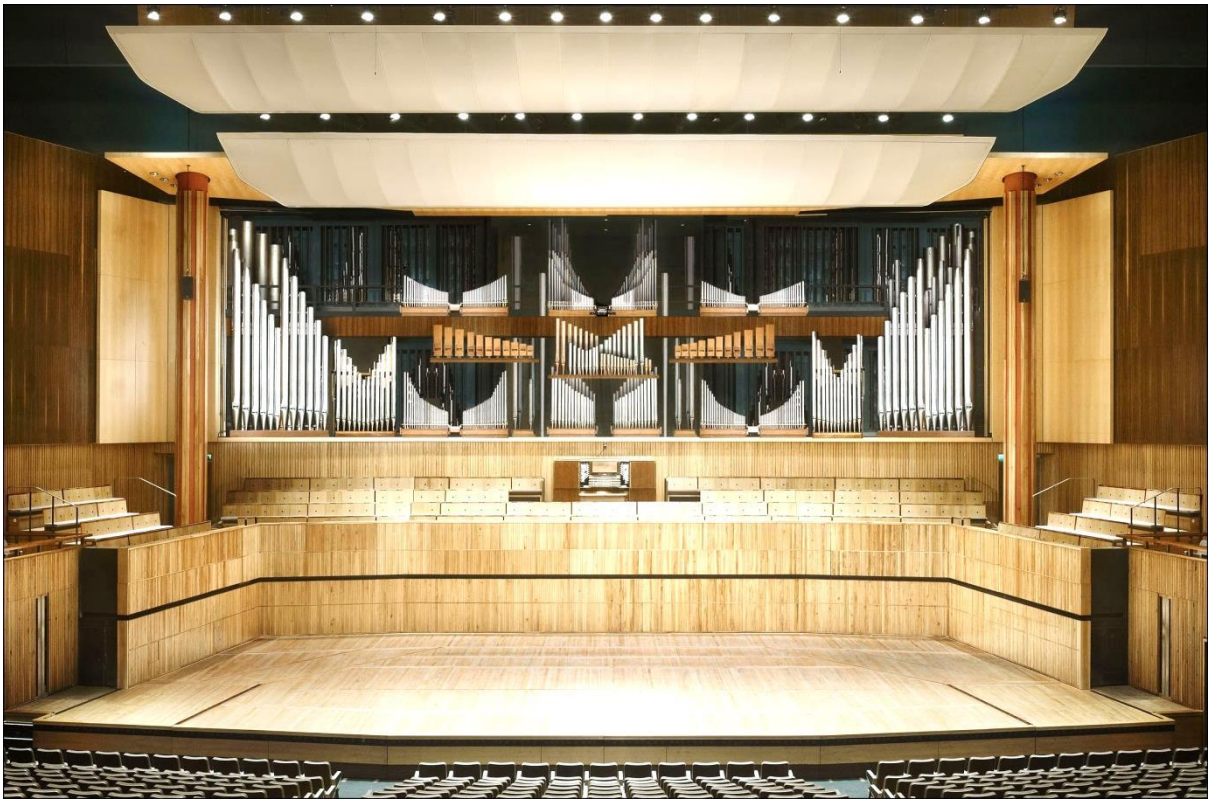
Another difficulty when playing the organ, is that often there is no place to rest one's feet firmly, when not using them to play. If you put them down in a normal position, you will probably hear an organ blast! So you have to learn to balance well on your bottom, without support for the feet; I found this physically stressful.

One day, during a lesson in London at St Lawrence church, Catherine said that she had to practise at the Royal Festival Hall for a lunchtime recital, which she was due to give there. She said that the organ's designer, Ralph Downes (1904-1993), was usually present whenever the organ was to be used. Downes was regarded as the best organ teacher of his day, and was Professor of Organ at the Royal College of Music. He regarded the organ as his baby. He did not approve much of female organists, and Catherine was a bit wary of being intimidated by him. So she asked me to accompany her, and I took a half day off work. She practised, and asked me to listen, and comment on the sound from various parts of the hall.



Inside the Royal Festival Hall

She then took a break, and said that I could play while she was away. She showed me a few basic controls, which she set up for me, and pointed out some features which I could try out. So I sat down to explore the organ. I forget what I played, but it was an amazing experience. I chose to experiment using the pipes at the extreme ends of the instrument, i.e. 10 metres to my left and 10 metres to my right.



The Royal Festival Hall organ, showing the console set amongst the choir seats

The effect was extraordinary: firstly I did not hear the sound immediately I touched the keys, but a fraction of a second later, because it took a small interval of time for the sound to reach me. It took some getting used to: I was always playing very slightly ahead of what I was hearing.

The stereophonic effect of the organ was fantastic – I think probably more so for the organist than for the audience. Below is the organ's console.

Console of the Royal Festival Hall organ

While I was playing, I was the one who was approached by 83 year old Ralph Downes, who said in a not very friendly voice: “This is all most irregular.” Catherine had escaped at the right time! I made a response, praising his wonderful organ design; I don’t recall what else may have been said. But then he wandered off, and that was that. Whether he continued listening, I do not know. There were some people, visitors, in a few of the boxes, who were observing, but I ignored them until Catherine returned.

The Festival Hall organ has over 7,800 pipes. It was installed by the builders, Harrison & Harrison, in 1954, and was restored by them in 2013. It has more than a hundred stops, (the banks of push/pull knobs to the left and right of the keyboards), 61 keys on the manuals (hand keyboards), and 32 keys on the pedalboard. Since there are 61 keys on the manuals, it follows that each manual has to have 61 pipes for each instrument which can be selected by one of the stops.

To explain a little more, there is a stop to be pulled out to select a trumpet sound, another stop for a horn, another for a trombone, and so on. For each instrument there are 61 pipes, one pipe for each key on the keyboard; so there are 61 organ pipes for the trumpet, another 61 pipes for the trombone, and so on. Pulling out two stops together, for the horn and the trombone for example, will produce simultaneous sounds for both those instruments. Hence we get the commonly used phrase ‘pull out all the stops’ to make a big effort for any endeavour. If you pull out all the stops on an organ, especially on a large organ, the resulting sound is tremendously loud, although not always pleasing, for it can be cacophonous. I dared not try it on the Festival Hall organ, especially with the organ designer within earshot, and in any case, I imagine that the noise might have caused some damage.

You may ask: “How on earth can you play 7,800 pipes?” Yes, it is a high number, but not as high as on the largest fully functional organ – the Wanamaker organ in Macy’s store in Philadelphia, which has over 28,000 pipes; the largest organ in the world is the Midmer-Losh pipe organ in Jim Whelan Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City. It has seven manual keyboards and 33,000 pipes, but it is not expected to be fully restored until 2023; you can watch a documentary about this organ at

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kilo5ezDJGk.

The pipes on an organ are controlled through two principal mechanisms: by having more than one keyboard, each keyboard addressing a selected section of pipes, and secondly by using the stops to select the instruments to be played. Each section of pipes can have many instruments.

At the time of writing, there is a good example showing the use of some organ features (stops and feet) in an adaptation for organ only, of the last movement of Saint-Saens’ Organ Symphony. It lasts for 8 minutes, and can be found at:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eq_jzx-gLBk

You will see the use of all four keyboards and the pedal board. Notice the different set of sounds produced by each keyboard. And look carefully at 1’12” seconds into the piece, for a simultaneous pulling out of many stops, which was achieved by pressing a single button, which had been pre-programmed to activate those stops; as a result, the volume of sound produced by the organ increased dramatically.

♪♪♪ Chapter 5: Gamelan ♪♪

The Royal Festival Hall Gamelan

The Royal Festival Hall is home to a beautiful Javanese percussion orchestra, called a gamelan. It was a 1987 gift from the Government of Indonesia to the people of Great Britain, as a gesture of friendship. This gamelan was named 'Kyai Lebdha Jiwa' or 'The Venerable Spirit of Perfection'.

The Festival Hall holds classes for anyone who would like to try playing an instrument in the gamelan orchestra. I went on a short course around 1989, and I don't remember having to pay for it; if there was a fee, it could not have been very much.

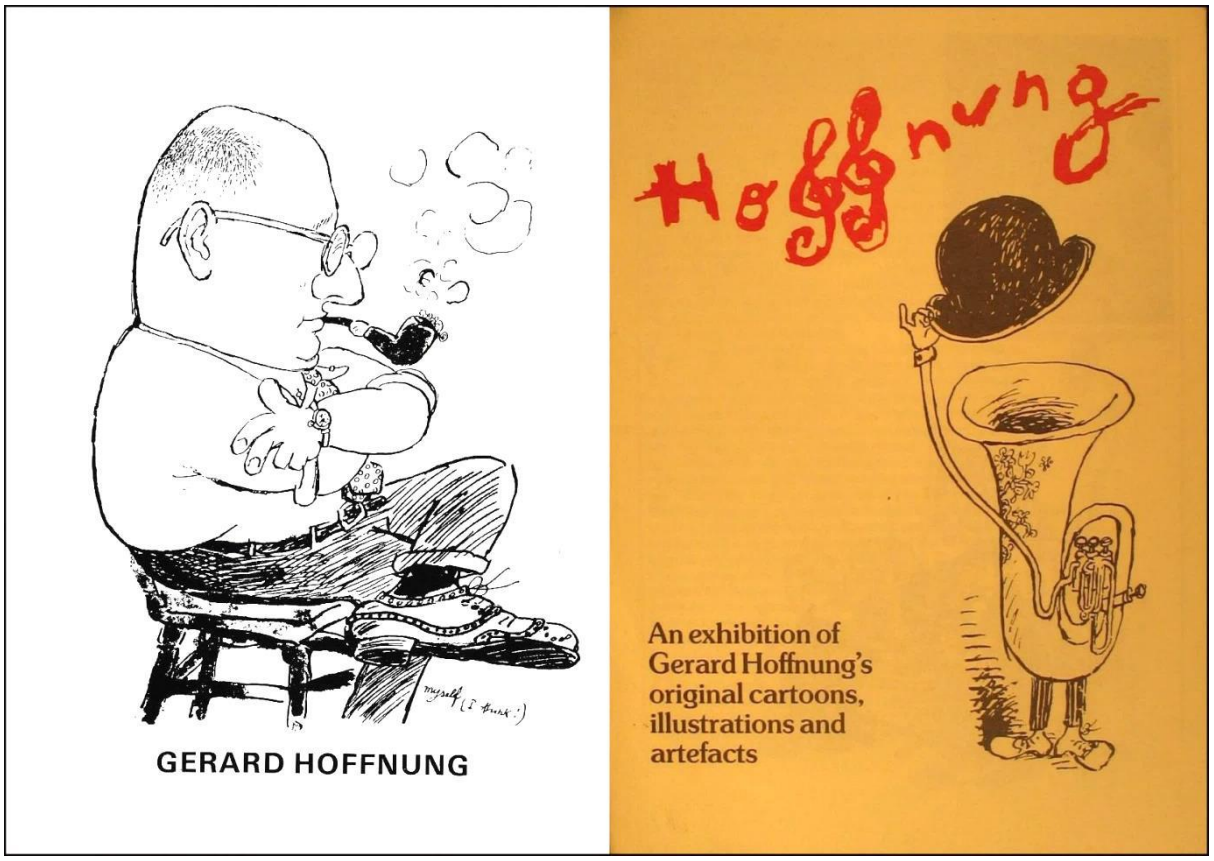
A problem was having to play sitting on the floor, which I did not find comfortable. Playing the instrument was fun, but also taxing on the brain, because one had to learn a sequence of rhythms for one of the instruments, without having anything written down to refer to; so it was a difficult memory exercise for me. The rhythm for my instrument was not the same as for other instruments, so one had to try not to be influenced by the other rhythms, and yet one had to stay synchronised with them. But the sound of the whole ensemble was impressive. Above is a photo of the Festival Hall gamelan.

You can see here, an 18-second gamelan recording made on an advanced training course at the Festival Hall:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4U8C60rSnDE

♪♪♪ Chapter 6: Hoffnung ♪♪♪

For the whole of my adult life, I have regarded Gerard Hoffnung as a hero, not only for his mad classical music concerts, but for his other extraordinary personae as a comic raconteur, a broadcaster, a cartoonist, an author, as a self-taught player of the tuba and of other instruments, as a prison visitor; and as an eccentric. He had an amazing memory for music, devouring complete scores of long works, which he could whistle from start to finish.



It has been said that his untimely death, from a brain haemorrhage at the age of 34 in 1959, was the greatest loss to British entertainment of the 20th century.

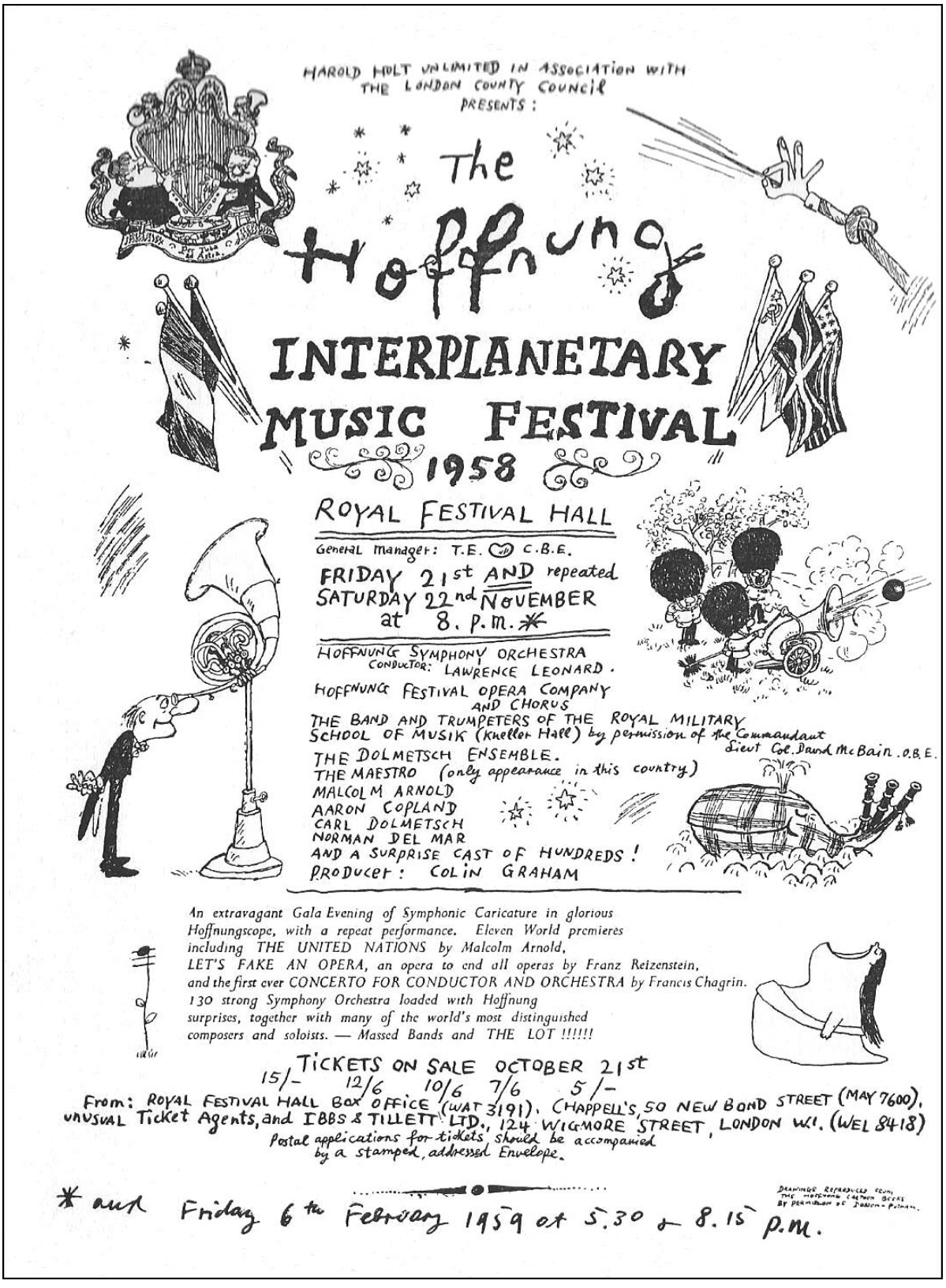
I first heard him when he broadcast on BBC radio in the early 1950s, in the programme *One Minute Please*, which later became known as *Just a Minute.* Around 1958, I heard the famous recording of his hilarious telling of the tale of *The Bricklayer's Lament*; a recording of this part of his lecture can be heard at www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZUJLO6lMhI&list=PLhTb4GgsrFT-K3RANBQcW4-UerG6ywyKb.

His first cartoon was published in Lilliput magazine, whilst he was still at school.

In November 1956, he put on his first concert, the Hoffnung Music Festival, which was televised by the BBC from the Royal Festival Hall. You can listen to Concerto Populare (12 minutes) extracted from the sound recording of this concert at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=PVC1AkIJh68&list=PLhTb4GgsrFT_Z9Mf1ZF_9-zSdeJ0zmJ7.

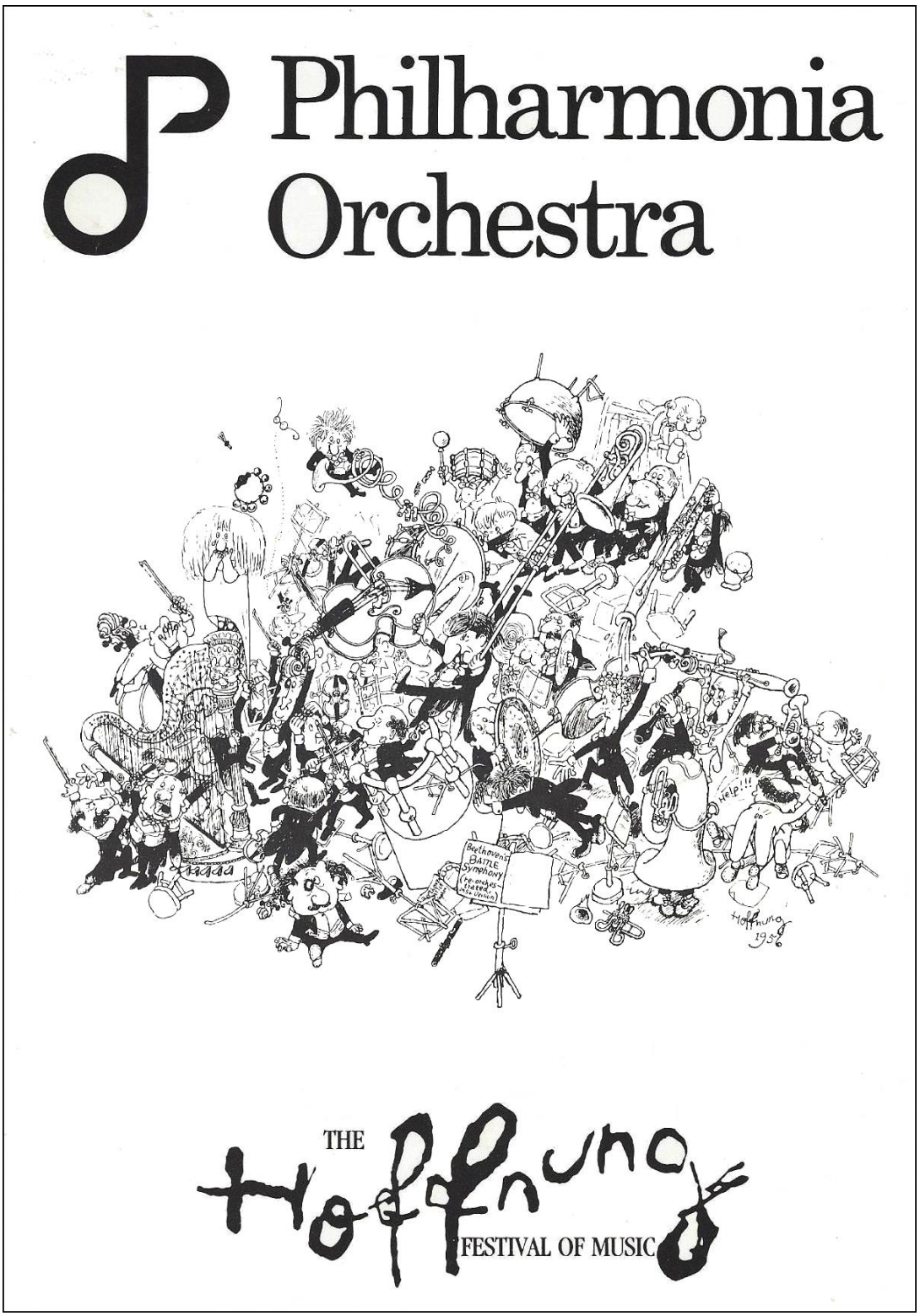
This must have been the inspiration for Morecambe and Wise's 1971 Christmas show, in which they made fun of André Previn, who was the conductor of Grieg's piano concerto. (This can be seen at www.youtube.com/watch?v=R7GeKLE0x3s).

Two more such festivals were held at the Festival Hall. The first of these in 1958, was called the Interplanetary Music Festival; a brief British Movietone News extract from the concert can be seen at www.youtube.com/watch?v=XG02UjjVX9w&t=9s. Here is Hoffnung's cartoon drawing for an advertising poster for the event:


HAROLD HOLT UNLIMITED IN ASSOCIATION WITH
THE LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL
PRESENTS :
The Hoffnung
INTERPLANETARY
MUSIC FESTIVAL
1958
ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
General Manager: T.E. [illegible] C.B.E.
FRIDAY 21st AND repeated
SATURDAY 22nd NOVEMBER
at 8. p.m. *
HOFFNUNG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
CONDUCTOR: LAWRENCE LEONARD.
HOFFNUNG FESTIVAL OPERA COMPANY
AND CHORUS
THE BAND AND TRUMPETERS OF THE ROYAL MILITARY
SCHOOL OF MUSIK (Kneller Hall) by permission of the Commandant
Lieut Col. David McBain. O.B.E.
THE DOLMETSCH ENSEMBLE.
THE MAESTRO (only appearance in this country)
MALCOLM ARNOLD
AARON COPLAND
CARL DOLMETSCH
NORMAN DEL MAR
AND A SURPRISE CAST OF HUNDREDS!
PRODUCER: COLIN GRAHAM
An extravagant Gala Evening of Symphonic Caricature in glorious Hoffnungscope, with a repeat performance. Eleven World premieres including THE UNITED NATIONS by Malcolm Arnold, LET'S FAKE AN OPERA, an opera to end all operas by Franz Reizenstein, and the first ever CONCERTO FOR CONDUCTOR AND ORCHESTRA by Francis Chagrin. 130 strong Symphony Orchestra loaded with Hoffnung surprises, together with many of the world's most distinguished composers and soloists. — Massed Bands and THE LOT !!!!!!
TICKETS ON SALE OCTOBER 21st
15/- 12/6 10/6 7/6 5/-
From: ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL BOX OFFICE (WAT 3191), CHAPPELL'S, 50 NEW BOND STREET (MAY 7600), UNUSUAL Ticket Agents, and IBBS & TILLETT LTD., 124 WIGMORE STREET, LONDON W1. (WEL 8418)
Postal applications for tickets, should be accompanied by a stamped, addressed Envelope.
* and Friday 6th February 1959 at 5.30 & 8.15 p.m.
DRAWINGS REPRODUCED FROM THE HOFFNUNG CARTOON BOOKS BY PERMISSION OF DOBSON-PITMAN.

The second of the two concerts, the Astronautical Music Festival, took place in 1961, after Gerard Hoffnung's death. I was not aware of these concerts, so I did not go to

either of them. But there was a fourth one held in 1988, to which I did go, and I still have the programme; here is its cover page:



The above cartoon is a wonderful comical illustration for Beethoven's 'Battle' Symphony

Sound recordings of these music festivals are but a shadow of the original events, through one's not being able to see the amusing happenings on stage and elsewhere in the hall. But a few video recordings have survived.

Concerts like these were put on in other countries after Gerard Hoffnung died, as a result of his widow Annetta's determination to maintain the uniquely amusing atmosphere which Gerard had created. She said: "Gerard's idea to promote humour in music must not be allowed to die with him."

Here is are videos made at two such concerts in 1992, in The Smetana Hall in Prague, as part of the Czech annual music festival:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQaV3Ahj3Pg
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Effvz9H9UQ

Annetta Hoffnung actually took part in one concert, dressed in the black and white uniform of a maid. She not only assisted with the Hoffnung concerts, but she also organised Hoffnung exhibitions and gave talks about her late husband.

These events were always very popular, and I attended one of them in Milton Keynes, on 9th June 2003, meeting her there for the first time, when she signed my copy of her biography of Gerard, and my copies of two other Hoffnung books. I had corresponded with Annetta a few times in the previous twelve years about various matters, including the books by and about Gerard which had been published over the years, and were out of print, and therefore difficult to buy. I had managed to trace on the Internet, a note of the recollections of Donald Anderson, who was one of Gerard's pupils in the short period during 1945 when he was the art teacher at Stamford School; Annetta was delighted to add this note to her collection of memorabilia, as you can see from her email to me:

Subject: Thanks
Date: Thu, 10 Jul 2003 14:14:46 +0100 **Status:** Normal
From: Annetta Hoffnung <hoffnung@ xxxxxx.com> Save Address

Dear David,

This is a very belated thank you for your letter - in thoughtfully enlarged print - with the account of Gerard at Stamford. I have put it in the archives along with other precious anecdotes of his time as a teacher. It was good meeting you and it's helpful to have your address should a question arise about Stamford which you may be able to clarify.

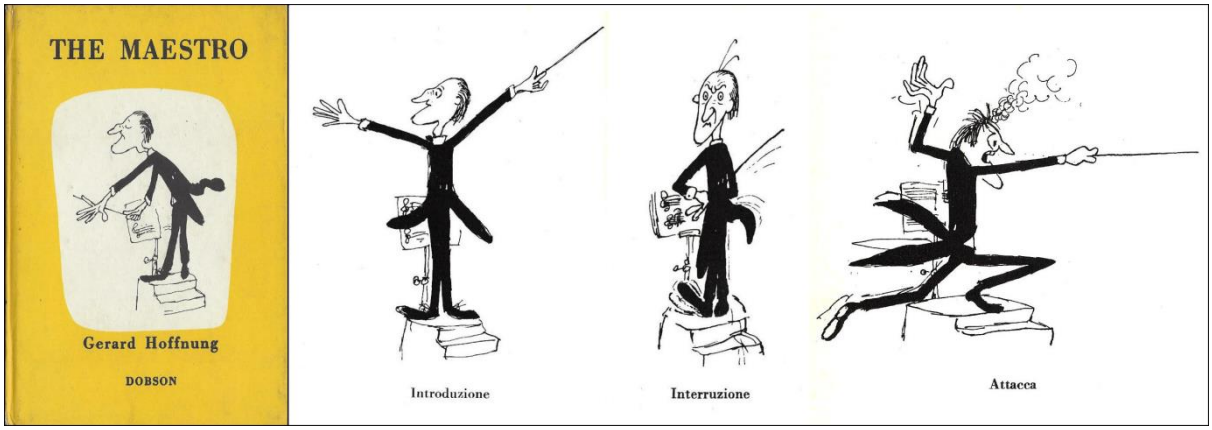
with best wishes to you,
Annetta

A 2003 email to me from Annetta Hoffnung

In 2007, Annetta was interviewed in the first of three episodes of Classic Britannia, a BBC 4 TV series about British classical music history for the six decades after 1945. Her interview was broadcast on 25th July 2008. I did not know about this broadcast until recently, and I have failed to discover what she said, but it must have been about Gerard.

I do not know exactly when she died, only that it was between 2011 and 2015. She was a kind and very attractive woman, as you will see, if you read some of the Hoffnung books.

Gerard drew cartoons about many subjects, and he had a particular interest in amusing musical drawings. Here are three cartoons from his book 'The Maestro', showing the antics of a conductor:



This painting of a trombonist is taken from Hoffnung's book entitled 'Hoffnung in Harmony' published by Souvenir Press (ISBN 0 285 62714 7).

More than two dozen Hoffnung books have been published, including his biography written by Annetta Hoffnung, which was published in 1988 by Gordon Fraser; ISBN 0 86092 110 7. It is called 'Hoffnung, his biography'. A few books by Hoffnung have also been made available in German.

There are also many Hoffnung recordings on YouTube which are worth watching. Several sound recording discs (vinyl and CD) are available via Amazon.co.uk.

What follows is nothing to do with music, but I cannot resist including it here. One of Gerard Hoffnung's books of humorous cartoons and short narratives is called 'Birds, Bees and Storks'. The book tells of a father's attempt to tell his son the facts of life. The cartoons have been brilliantly animated into a very funny five minute film, in which Peter Sellers reads Hoffnung's dialogue from the book; the film is now on YouTube, and can be seen at:

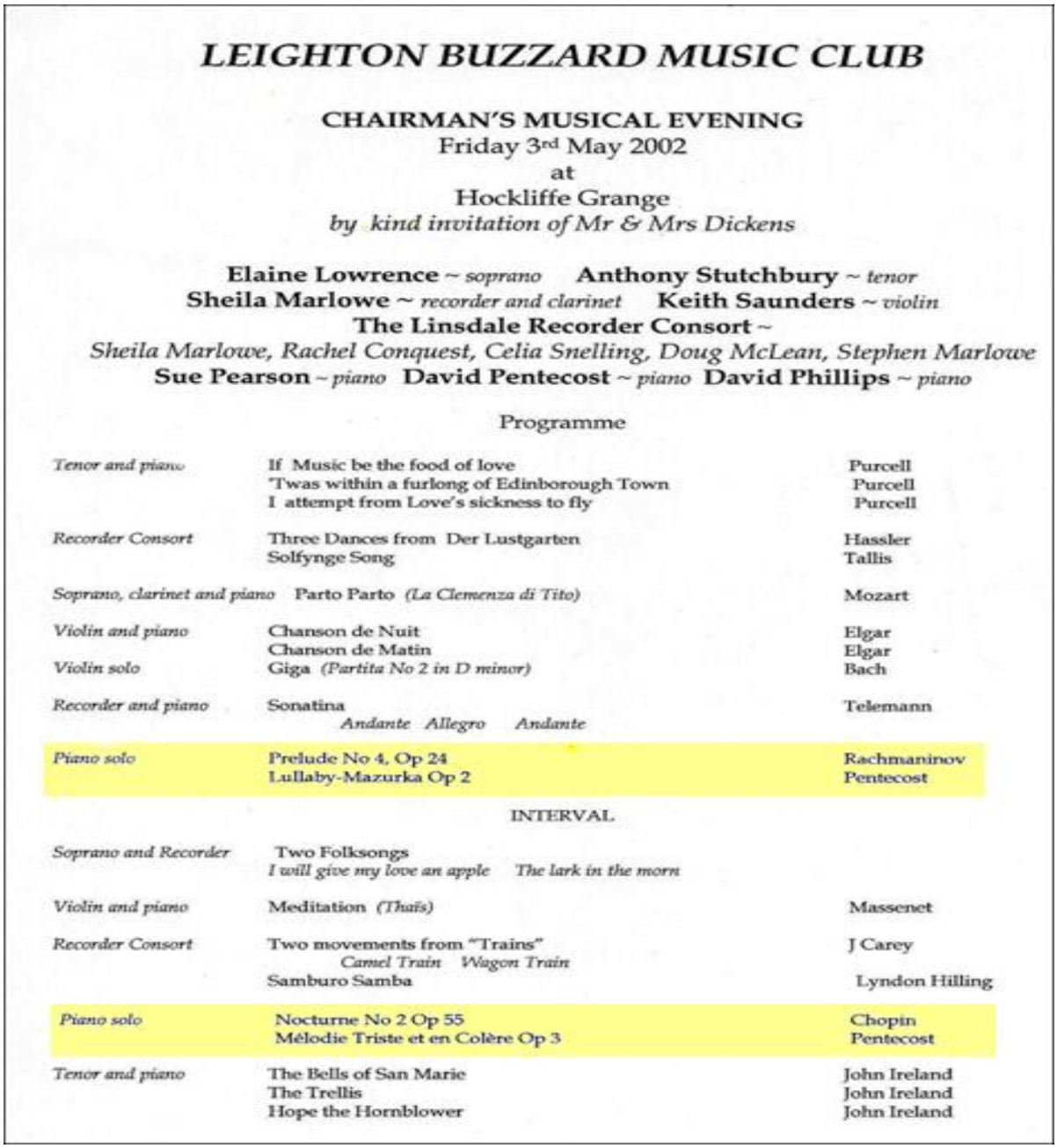
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kVX_EndLiUM

♪♪♪♪ Chapter 7: Leighton Buzzard Music Club ♪♪♪

I joined my local music club around 1999. They held monthly concerts, often in the local library theatre, and sometimes invited international soloists to perform.

In 2000, I spoke to the chairman, David Phillips, suggesting that I develop a website for the club, free of charge, and that I maintain it on a monthly basis, with details of the next concert. In return I would have free membership. He agreed, and I maintained the website at www.lbmusic.co.uk until 2008.

Once a year, the chairman held a musical evening, and I was invited to play at the May 2002 event. The programme of music is below. I played Rachmaninoff's Prelude Op.24 No.4, Chopin's Nocturne Op.55 No.2, and two of my own compositions, Lullaby-Mazurka and Mélodie Triste et en Colère.



LEIGHTON BUZZARD MUSIC CLUB

CHAIRMAN'S MUSICAL EVENING
Friday 3rd May 2002
at
Hockliffe Grange
by kind invitation of Mr & Mrs Dickens

Elaine Lowrence ~ *soprano* **Anthony Stutchbury** ~ *tenor*
Sheila Marlowe ~ *recorder and clarinet* **Keith Saunders** ~ *violin*
The Linsdale Recorder Consort ~
Sheila Marlowe, Rachel Conquest, Celia Snelling, Doug McLean, Stephen Marlowe
Sue Pearson ~ *piano* **David Pentecost** ~ *piano* **David Phillips** ~ *piano*

Programme

Tenor and piano	If Music be the food of love	Purcell
	'Twas within a furlong of Edinborough Town	Purcell
	I attempt from Love's sickness to fly	Purcell
Recorder Consort	Three Dances from Der Lustgarten	Hassler
	Solfynge Song	Tallis
Soprano, clarinet and piano	Parto Parto *(La Clemenza di Tito)*	Mozart
Violin and piano	Chanson de Nuit	Elgar
	Chanson de Matin	Elgar
Violin solo	Giga *(Partita No 2 in D minor)*	Bach
Recorder and piano	Sonatina	Telemann
	Andante Allegro Andante	
Piano solo	Prelude No 4, Op 24	Rachmaninov
	Lullaby-Mazurka Op 2	Pentecost
	INTERVAL	
Soprano and Recorder	Two Folksongs	
	I will give my love an apple The lark in the morn	
Violin and piano	Meditation *(Thaïs)*	Massenet
Recorder Consort	Two movements from "Trains"	J Carey
	Camel Train Wagon Train	
	Samburo Samba	Lyndon Hilling
Piano solo	Nocturne No 2 Op 55	Chopin
	Mélodie Triste et en Colère Op 3	Pentecost
Tenor and piano	The Bells of San Marie	John Ireland
	The Trellis	John Ireland
	Hope the Hornblower	John Ireland

Chapter 8: A new electronic piano

When I was on a shopping trip to Milton Keynes, sometime around 1996, I passed by a branch of Chappell of Bond Street's music shop. Curious, seeing some new small electronic pianos through the open front door, I went in, looked around, and tried one or two of these instruments, called Clavinovas by the makers, Yamaha. I imagined that the tone would be poor and tinny sounding. How wrong I was! The sound was surprisingly good, and the touch excellent.

Then I discovered that there were possibilities using the sockets on the instrument, to connect it to other devices. And there was a recording button as well. Headphones could be plugged in - very useful for not annoying other people when practising. And there were buttons for playing other instruments, including the organ and strings. I decided to buy one, the model CLP123, which had the best piano tone.

It was obvious that the features of the instrument would allow me to compose music much more easily than when I had tried manually in childhood. Below is a photo of a CLP123.

I had to arrange to sell my beloved Chappell piano, for there was not enough space to have two instruments. I advertised the piano locally, and within a few days, a lady came to see it and try it. She agreed to buy it, and soon, she had arranged its collection to her home.

Yamaha CLP123

Chapter 9: Composing in the UK

I wanted to try composing again, after giving up as a youngster. I did some research on available software systems, to enable me to use the Clavinova to create printed pages of music, and I found a German system, called Cubase, which I bought in 1996. I connected my computer to the Clavinova and with enormous struggles, I learned how to use the Cubase software.

I managed to compose nearly all of my first piece, called "*Opus 1 - Theme and Variations*", which was quite a long work, for piano and oboe. I had a contact, Samantha Jones, a professional oboist, and I sent her the incomplete work, asking her to comment on it, in return for a fee of £30.

She told me about a major problem with my music for the oboe. I had been misinformed about the range of the oboe, so some passages could not be played as I had written them; she sometimes had to move up by an octave.

Also I did not leave enough rests for breathing, in some places. She said that it was a "good piece – in the same basic style as Johann Hummel's *'Introduction, Theme & Variations" (Opus 102)*. That was comforting to hear, and news to me about Hummel's Opus 102, for I didn't know any of Hummel's music.

I intended to re-work the piece, but I have still not done so, and I think it may now be lost. So my second piece I decided also to number Opus 1, planning to re-number the Hummel-like work at some future date. So Opus 1 became *Lullaby-Mazurka*, but it wasn't finished until 1999; its middle movement is in the tempo of a mazurka. I completed four more pieces throughout 1999, *Mélodie Triste et en Colère, Rondo, Fantasia and Rondo-Scherzo,* (Opus 2 to 5 respectively), having started writing them much earlier.

The Rondo was written just as an exercise, to see if I could write anything in the awkward time signature of 5:4. This was because I was very fond of Dave Brubeck's jazz group playing *Take Five,* which is also in 5:4 time. *Take Five* is brilliant, and I wanted to see if I could write something as catchy. Of course, I could not, and my Rondo is poor by comparison; it is not jazz either, but I wasn't trying to write jazz. I once saw the Dave Brubeck quartet play this at the Royal Festival Hall, and here is a link to one of their performances:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=PHdU5sHigYQ

Mélodie I am very pleased with, the *Rondo-Scherzo,* not so much. But the *Fantasia* I think is one of my best compositions; it is easy to play, except for three similar and difficult fast passages which appear in the work.

Chapter 10: The Chopin Society (London)

Above is a photo of Milenka Engleman, taken in Cyprus in 2005. She came here with a mutual friend, to stay with me for a holiday. She belonged to the Chopin Society in London, as a result of her boyfriend's being a member, and she persuaded me to join, in 2001. Had it not been for her, I would almost certainly not be writing this book.

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW HONORARY MEMBERS(*) MEMBERS (¶) & FRIENDS (§)

Mr. Barnaby Burnell §
Mr. Eugene Byrne §
Mr. Stefan Byron §
Mrs. Françoise Call §
Mrs. Anne Cawkwell ¶
Professor John Graham Dawber §
Mrs. Stefania Dembinska ¶
Mr. Ryszard Dembinski *
Mr. David J. Hall ¶
Mr. Jim Harmey ¶
Mr. F.G. Murphy §
Rt. Hon. Paul Murphy MP *
Miss Margaret M. Page ¶
Mr. David Pentecost ¶
Mrs. Grace Pirie §
Lady Swann ¶
Mrs. John Wright ¶
Mrs. Irena Urjane ¶
Count Adam Zamoyski *

The Society holds music events, mostly piano recitals, these days often in Westminster Cathedral Hall, where the Society has its new Steinway piano. The pianists are nearly always well-known international performers,

Westminster Cathedral Hall

As well as these regular monthly recitals, the Society held private concerts a few times annually, where only members of the Society were allowed to perform, playing to each other and to friends.

I played at five of these Members' Matinées, as they were called, until I moved permanently to Cyprus.

The Members' Matinées were usually held in private residences. At my first Matinée, I played a Chopin Nocturne, a Rachmaninoff Prelude, and finally my Opus 1 composition, *Lullaby-Mazurka*.

The programmes for my Members' Matinées, are on the following pages.

Sunday 7th April 2002 at 3.30pm

The Chopin Society
proudly present their Third

MEMBERS' MATINEE

PROGRAMME

JOHN BIRCH

GRIEG	In my Native Country Op.43/3
	Popular Melody Op.12/5

ROSE CHOLMONDELEY

CHOPIN	Barcarolle Op.60

DAVID PENTECOST

CHOPIN	Nocturne No.16 Op.55/2
RACHMANINOV	Prelude Op.23/4
PENTECOST	Lullaby-Mazurka

STEFAN BYRON

CHOPIN	Polonaise in Ab Op.53

I * N * T * E * R * V * A * L

STANLEY HILL

HANDEL	Largo in G
ADDINSELL	Warsaw Concerto

ZBIGNIEW CHOROSZEWSKI

IRVING BERLIN	Medley

PAUL ULMAN

HAYDN	Sonata in G minor XVI:44
RACHMANINOV	Etude tableaux No.2 Op.39

THE CHOPIN SOCIETY

Sunday 6th October 2002
at Petersham Lodge, Richmond

4TH MEMBERS' MATINEE

Josephine Loewenstein	**MOZART**	Sonata in Bb KV282 (189g) Adagio Minuetto 1/ Minuetto 2
Mary Leonard	**CLEMENTI**	Sonata in D Op.26 No.6
	CHOPIN	Prelude in E minor Op.28 No.4
	BRAHMS	Rhapsodie in Eb Op.119 No.4
Zbigniew Choroszewski	**VIENNESE MEDLEY by STRAUSS, LEHAR, KALMAN & SIECZYNSKI**	
Paul Aleksander Ulman	**RACHMANINOV**	Prelude Op.23 No.1
	LISZT/VERDI	*Rigoletto* Concert Paraphrase
	I*N*T*E*R*V*A*L	
John Birch	**CHOPIN**	Waltz Op.69 No.1
Robert Duirs	**CHOPIN**	Waltz Op.69 No.2
Stanley Hill	**CHOPIN**	Waltz Op.64 No.2
	DEBUSSY	Clair de Lune
Rose Cholmondeley	**DEBUSSY**	Prelude and Toccata from *Pour le Piano*
David Pentecost	**SATIE**	Gnossienne No.5
	PENTECOST	Fantasia Op.5
Nicholas Wickham-Irving	**BERKELEY**	4 Concert Studies Presto Andante Allegro Allegro

You can see above, that I played not only the Satie Gnossienne, but also my own best composition at the time: *'Fantasia'.*

THE CHOPIN SOCIETY

Sunday October 12th at 3.30pm
2003

The Chopin Society presents a

MEMBERS' MATINEE

at Petersham Lodge

By kind permission of
Prince and Princess Rupert Loewenstein

BEETHOVEN	from Sonata in F minor Op.2 No.1: Allegro Prestissimo	Rose Cholmondeley
CHOPIN	Nocturne in B major Op.32 No.1	David Pentecost
CHOPIN	Prelude in Eb minor Op.28 No.4	
CHOPIN	4 Mazurkas Op.41: 1. in C# minor 2. in E minor 3. in B major 4. in Ab major	Nicholas Wickham-Irving
SCARLATTI	Sonata K.24	Benjamin Grosvenor
CHOPIN	Berceuse in Db Op.57	
CHOPIN	Fantasie Impromptu in C# minor Op.66	
CLEMENTI	Sonata in D Op.32	Mary Leonard
CHOPIN	Etude Op.25 No.1 in Ab "The Harp"	
CHOPIN	Valse Op.64 No.1 in Db "Doggy Valse"	

THE CHOPIN SOCIETY

Sunday November 7th at 3.30pm

2004

The Chopin Society presents a

MEMBERS' MATINEE

at Petersham Lodge

By kind permission of

Prince and Princess Rupert Loewenstein

MOZART	2nd mvt. Concerto in C KV.246	Josephine Loewenstein & Edith Hogben
CHOPIN	Nocturne in C# minor Op. Posth.	Josephine Loewenstein
CHOPIN	3rd mvt - Largo - Sonata in B minor Op.58 Prelude in C# minor Op.45	David Pentecost
CHOPIN	Ballade in G minor Op.23	Rose Cholmondeley
OGINSKI	Mazurka in G; Mazurka in A minor Polonaise in A minor - "From the Fatherland"	Iwo Zaluski
SCARLATTI	Sonata in A Longo 495	
CHOPIN	Impromptu in Ab Op.29	Mary Leonard

I * N * T * E * R * V * A * L

BEETHOVEN	Sonata Op.27 No.2	
BACH/BUSONI	Chaconne	Stanley Hill
DE CURTIS	Non ti scordar di me	
ROSE	Holiday for Strings	
WIENIAWSKI	Kujawiak	Zbigniew Chorozewski
MUSSORGSKY	Excerpts from "Pictures at an Exhibition"	Paul Ulman
STRAVINSKY	Serenade in A in 4 movements	Nicholas Wickham-Irving

THE CHOPIN SOCIETY

MEMBERS' MATINEE

June 5th 2005 at 3.30pm

held at
44 Bassett Road W10
by kind permission of Lady Rose Cholmondeley

The concert takes place in the Music Room at the top of the house

	David Pentecost
CHOPIN	Contredanse
BEETHOVEN	Scherzo from Sonata Op.2 No.2
	Josephine Loewenstein
CHOPIN	Nocturne No.19 in E minor Op. posth.
	Peter Ray
CHOPIN	Nocturne in Eb Op.9 No.2
	Stanley Hill
CHOPIN	2 Valses: Op.34 No.2 Op.64 No.1
	Rose Cholmondeley
SCHUMANN	4 of the *Scenes from Childhood* Op.15
	Peter Jamieson
SCRIABIN	Etude Op.2 No.1
MENDELSSOHN	Prelude in E minor Op.35 No.1
	John Birch
MOZART	Andante cantabile from Sonata in C K330
	Paul Ulman
BRAHMS	1st movement: *Allegro non troppo ma energico,* From the Sonata in F# minor
GLUCK/SGAMBATI	Melodie

Having moved to Cyprus, I remain a Friend of the Society

Chapter 11: Composing in Cyprus

Vashiotis Santa Maria Court, Flat 204
Stratigou Timagia Street, 34
Limassol, 3107, Cyprus

DAVID PENTECOST, MBCS, CITP, MIMIS

Author and Classical Music Composer

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You may download the sheet music for my compositions: Visit www.sheetmusicplus.com and search on "David Pentecost".

You can hear some of the compositions on YouTube by searching on "Pentecost Stupak"

I first visited Cyprus in 2003 with my daughter Denise, to find a property to buy. In the following two years, I lived part-time in England, and part-time in Cyprus. After that, I was permanently in Cyprus.

An early essential purchase for my Cyprus flat was another Clavinova, having left my first one at home in Leighton Buzzard. It seemed to me that Nakas Music, which was then near the Kourion roundabout, was the best place in Limassol to buy a Clavinova. So that is where I bought this instrument:

Yamaha Clavinova CLP120

The computer (far left), printer, screen (showing music), keyboard and mouse can be seen. The audio interface connecting the computer to the piano, is a Steinberg model UR22 (photo below), and it stands on the left end of the piano. A PageFlip automatic electronic page turner is on the floor, left of the pedals.

In 2003 I bought a different software system for producing music notation, called Sibelius, which I think is today the most popular software available to composers. My first task, was to learn how to use Sibelius 3, with the help of the user guide; see photo below. I now (in 2020) use Sibelius Ultimate, 2019 edition, not Sibelius 3.

The next task was to convert my first five compositions completed in 1999, to work with the Sibelius software, in order to produce printouts of the music in a new standard format. It was possible, but too complicated to do the conversion electronically, so I re-keyed the notes and annotations directly into Sibelius.

Sibelius software manual and the Steinberg audio interface

In 2008, I composed just two pieces of music: **Opus 7**: *Waltz* and **Opus 8**: *Song without Words*.

In 2009 I returned to the UK for a few weeks, to free up the ground floor room in my house in Leighton Buzzard, because my agents wanted to rent it out. The room was full of many of my things, including my first Clavinova. There was no time to advertise it for sale, so in a hurry, I gave it to the music department of Vandyke secondary school, where my children had been educated. The school was very pleased to have it, for it was better than their other instruments. Here it is, taken off its stand for easy transportation to the school:

CLP 123 Clavinova ready for transportation

I did no more composing until 2012. On 8th April, I attended a piano recital at the Rialto Theatre in Limassol, given by Cyprien Katsaris. He played as an encore, Alexander Siloti's arrangement of Bach's Prelude, BWV 855.

Siloti had been a pupil of Liszt, and his arrangement of the Bach work had transformed it in an unusual way: he had transposed the key from one sharp to two sharps, and had moved the bass clef music line up to the treble clef; in the left hand, Siloti's version comprised some chords, with far fewer notes than Bach had had in the right hand; Siloti had mostly just two simple chords in the left hand in each bar.

I quickly realised that Siloti's arrangement could be much enhanced by the addition of more notes in the left hand, to create a more active and flowing melody. The left hand could also be played more strongly, giving emphasis to its melody. The result would be a more romantic sound to the work.

I set about writing my arrangement, and produced a sheet music version quickly, by photocopying the Siloti version, and then using photo editing software, to insert the extra notes. I posted it to Cyprien Katsaris in Paris, asking for his comments. He emailed me on 5th May, saying "Your version sounds extremely nice". Judging from what he also said, (that he wanted to stick with the Siloti version, which he had memorised and played so many times), I realised that it would be very confusing to learn another version, and so to have two versions of one piece in one's head.

In 2014, I set about keying my version of the prelude into the Sibelius software, to produce a much better looking printed version of the prelude: my **Opus 9**.

I then had Bach's style and rhythms so firmly in my mind, that I decided to write a prelude of my own, but inspired by Bach. The result was completed in 2014, as my **Opus 11** *Prelude*.

At about the same time, I heard a song on BBC Radio 3, *A Chloris*, by Reynaldo Hahn. I was captivated by it, and determined to buy the sheet music. But I could not find a piano version – only the voice line and piano accompaniment version seemed to be available, which I bought and downloaded.

Spurred on at having written the arrangement of Siloti's own arrangement of a Bach prelude, I determined to produce my own arrangement of *A Chloris*, for piano solo. I am very pleased with the result: it is my **Opus 10**. It seems that other people have had the same problem, wanting a piano solo version, and they began to buy my version, which I had put up for sale on the Internet. *A Chloris* is a beautiful song; for the lyrics, Reynaldo Hahn applied words from an early 17th century French poem. A wonderful sung version was recently made by the South African singer Pumeza Matshikiza, and it can be heard at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0iwTEIsM9UI

Her French pronunciation of a few word endings is not perfect, but that does not detract from the beauty of her powerful interpretation.

Opus 6 is the last piece which I wrote in 2014, is called *Reverie*, a gentle romantic style work, which I wrote for my grandson; I hope that one day he will play it.

In 2015, enthused by writing *A Chloris*, I decided to arrange another song, for which again I could find no piano solo version. It is Richard Strauss' *Zueignung.* I had been familiar with the song for a long time, having a cassette tape recording of it sung by Kiri Te Kanawa. This, I arranged and published as my **Opus 14.**

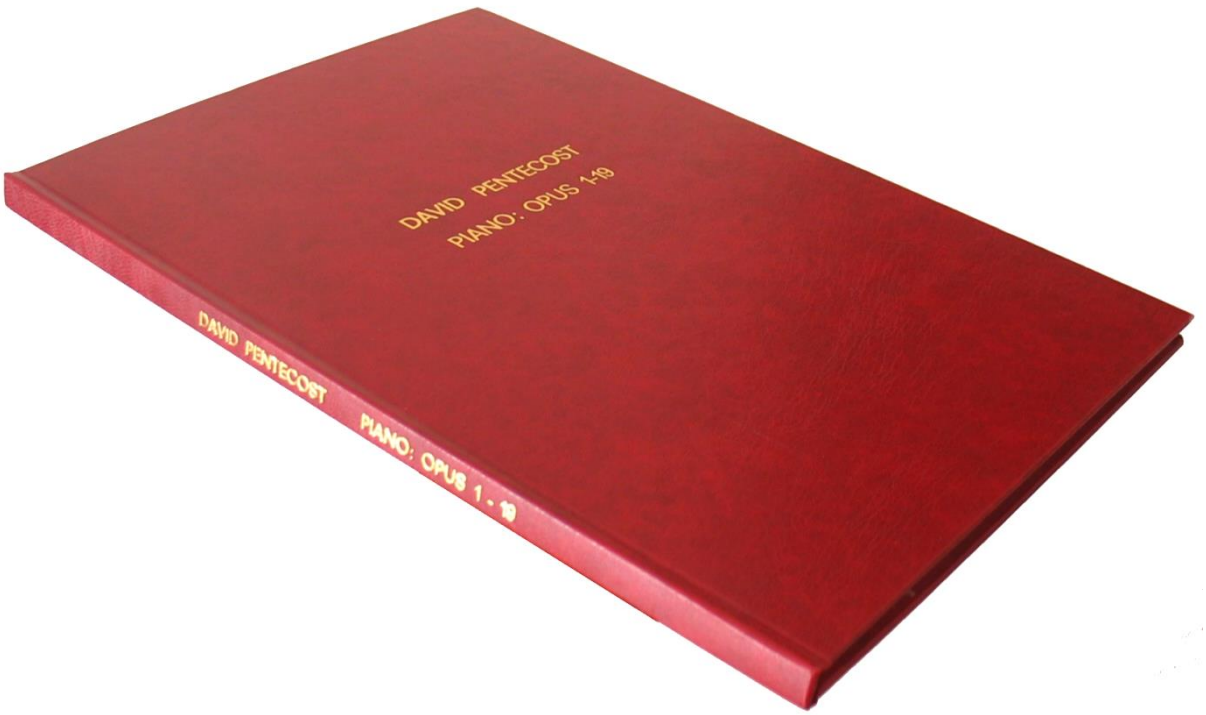
I then arranged Puccini's *Musetta's Waltz* for solo piano, also in 2015. **Opus 15**

My last two compositions in 2015 were *Etude* (**Opus 12**), and my first *Nocturne* (**Opus 13**). Both were influenced by Chopin; indeed the *Etude* uses the same rhythmic idea which Chopin employed in his *Etude* No.26. Liszt was fond of playing this Chopin study, and it was the last piece his friends ever heard him play, in 1886.

In 2016 I wrote a four page work called *Theme and Variations* (**Opus 16**). This was followed by another *Etude* (**Opus 17**); I called it a study, because its purpose is to practise legato playing with minimal use of the pedal.

Two more *Nocturnes* followed in quick succession. The first of these (**Opus 18**) I dedicated to my pianist friend Tatiana Stupak, after I had sent it to her for her opinion, and she replied that she liked it very much. She was a member of my Limassol Pianists' Circle (see next chapter). It is one of her favourite pieces, and she has played it in public at several of her concerts.

The **Opus 19** *Nocturne* is the last work which I included in the first bound volume of my compositions, of which I had four copies made by Lellos Bookbinders, in St. Andrew's Street, Limassol. I did the printing, and they, the binding. They did a very professional job for me:



My first bound volume of compositions

I had little hope initially of having my music published, and none whatsoever of making any money from the occupation. Professional music publishing companies have no interest in publishing works from unknown composers.

There are five copies of my first music book. The first I gave to my grandson, hoping that one day he might play some of them. Two I gave to my pianist friends Tatiana Stupak and Natalia Lezedova, and the remaining two copies I have. This very limited edition was not strictly published, because it was not made public. A photo of the book is above.

It was a welcome discovery in 2014, when I found that it was possible for me to publish my sheet music free of charge on the Internet at www.sheetmusicplus.com. I have been uploading my compositions since then, as soon as each one has been completed. The compositions can be downloaded for a small fee and then printed by anyone coming across them.

This makes me very little money – perhaps one or two sales per month so far, each for a few dollars, mostly to buyers in the USA. But the sales should continue indefinitely, long after I am no longer around. Thus far, it is my arrangements of other composers' works which have been selling, and not my own original works.

My friend Tatiana Stupak and I are now (2020) trying to find a good recording studio in Limassol, where she plans to record most, if not all, of my works. A few were recorded several years ago. I filmed the recordings, and put them on my YouTube website, and those which I wrote for her, on her YouTube website as well. The soundtracks I upload to www.sheetmusicplus.com so that prospective purchasers can hear what the music sounds like, before they commit to making a purchase of the sheet music.

Now I shall digress, to tell a story about what happened to me on 28th May 2017, concerning one of my compositions. Perhaps it was early in May, when Tatiana Stupak had encouraged me to go with her to a small concert at a Limassol music school, where she introduced me to a pianist friend of hers, Natalia Lezedova, who lived in Paphos. At one point, the two of them said that they needed to discuss some business, and made it clear that I was not wanted! I did not know that they were hatching a plot to surprise me. On 27th May, Tatiana insisted that I should go with her the next day, to hear a recital being given by Natalia at the Technopolis 20 Cultural Centre in Paphos. I was not really keen to go, because I did not like the drive to Paphos. She 'bullied' me into accompanying her, and I was surprised that she was not going to drive – she had organised a friend to drive us there. I thought that this was extraordinary. We were late (as is often the case with Tatiana), but we just managed to make it to the venue and get a back row seat, as the recital was about to begin.

Natalia played her recital very well, and at the end I was wondering why Tatiana had been so insistent that I should go with her. Then Natalia stood up, and announced to the audience that there was a composer in the house, and that she was going to play one of his compositions. I then understood what all the fuss and the plotting, a few weeks earlier, had been about.

She was about to play my Opus 2 composition, *Mélodie Triste et en Colère*, which has some difficult passages in it. I was concerned, when she sat down at the piano without any sheet music. I was astonished that she had taken the trouble to memorise the piece. She played well, and it was the first time that I had ever heard

one of my compositions being played. I remember being amazed at how well it sounded.

After the concert on 28th May 2017 – Natalia next to me, dressed in red.

After that diversion, I shall now resume the story of my compositions.

My next work, **Opus 21**, was a *Prelude* in C major, started in November 2016, and finished late in 2017. It is not a romantic sounding piece at all – a little 'baroqueish'; I marked it to be played without the pedal, but I know that some pianists would prefer to use a little pedal in some places. (There is no Opus 20 as such, because the printed book shown above has been allocated the ISMN number 20. I make my opus numbers the same as the ISMN serial numbers).

I wrote my second *Fantasia*, **Opus 22**, in 2017, publishing it in December. It is in seven movements, starting and finishing in waltz time. Some sections I have marked to be played without pedal.

Opus 23 I finished late in 2017. It is a *Prelude* with similar characteristics to Opus 21.

Opus 24 I published in December 2017. I returned to my favourite form of music – the *Nocturne*. It was my fourth such work, and written in four movements, the last being a repeat of the first movement. It is an extremely expressive piece, written in four different keys, with changes of tempo and contrasts of volume from very soft to very loud. It is one of my favourite pieces.

Another *Nocturne* quickly followed: **Opus 25**. It is not quite as romantic as Opus 24, and is a little unusual in that it has a four bar staccato section, which appears twice in the piece, providing a sudden contrast in style.

I liked the first twelve bars of Opus 25 so much, that immediately after finishing the Nocturne, I wanted to write some variations on those twelve bars. And so appeared

my second *Theme & Variations*, **Opus 26**, completed a few days after I finished Opus 25.

The next year, 2018, and most of 2019 were barren of music by me. I was so occupied with writing my second autobiography: My Working Life, and helping Tatiana with her music career. During this period, she held more than fifty music events.

In December 2018, I started experimenting with a different method of creating music: by improvisation. I was just sitting at the keyboard and letting my fingers play whatever came out of my head. Some good tunes were lost, and I could never remember them. So I decided to record the soundtracks during these short sessions at the keyboard. If I was playing on my Clavinova, I would use the instrument's own recording feature; if I was on a conventional piano, such as at Tatiana's music school grand piano, I would use my video camera.

For music captured on the Clavinova, I would connect the headphone output socket on the Clavinova to the microphone input socket on my computer, and use the computer's sound recorder software to capture the improvisation as a .wma file. For music recorded on my video camera, I would connect the camera cartridge to my computer, to copy the recording, and then extract the soundtrack from the recording, using my video editing software, Cyberlink's PowerDirector. The resulting sound-track file would be input to the Sibelius music notation software for editing and subsequent publication.

In January 2019, I published one piece, **Opus 27,** a simple *Prelude*, which I had improvised on 19th December 2018. With all my improvisations, there are mistakes – some wrong notes are hit and there may be a bad section, needing to be deleted. And on listening to the recording, sometimes it is clear that a new section needs to be written for insertion after a passage which seems unfinished. I decided that the improvisation was good enough to warrant improvements, and I made them, creating Opus 27.

Another improvisation I recorded on 19th December 2019: a short piece in dance rhythm, which I called *Impromptu Dance*, **Opus 28**.

I kept practising music creation by improvisation throughout 2019, and I was surprised at how much better, with increasing practice, I became at music making, using this method. I had never envisaged myself as an improviser at all, and had been useless at it before December 2018. It was such a surprise at how the ability appeared from nowhere, without any training. I do not even know if it is possible to be taught to improvise.

I wrote most of what became Opus 31 and Opus 32 in May 2019, but did not complete them until November 2019, when I found time to start composing again.

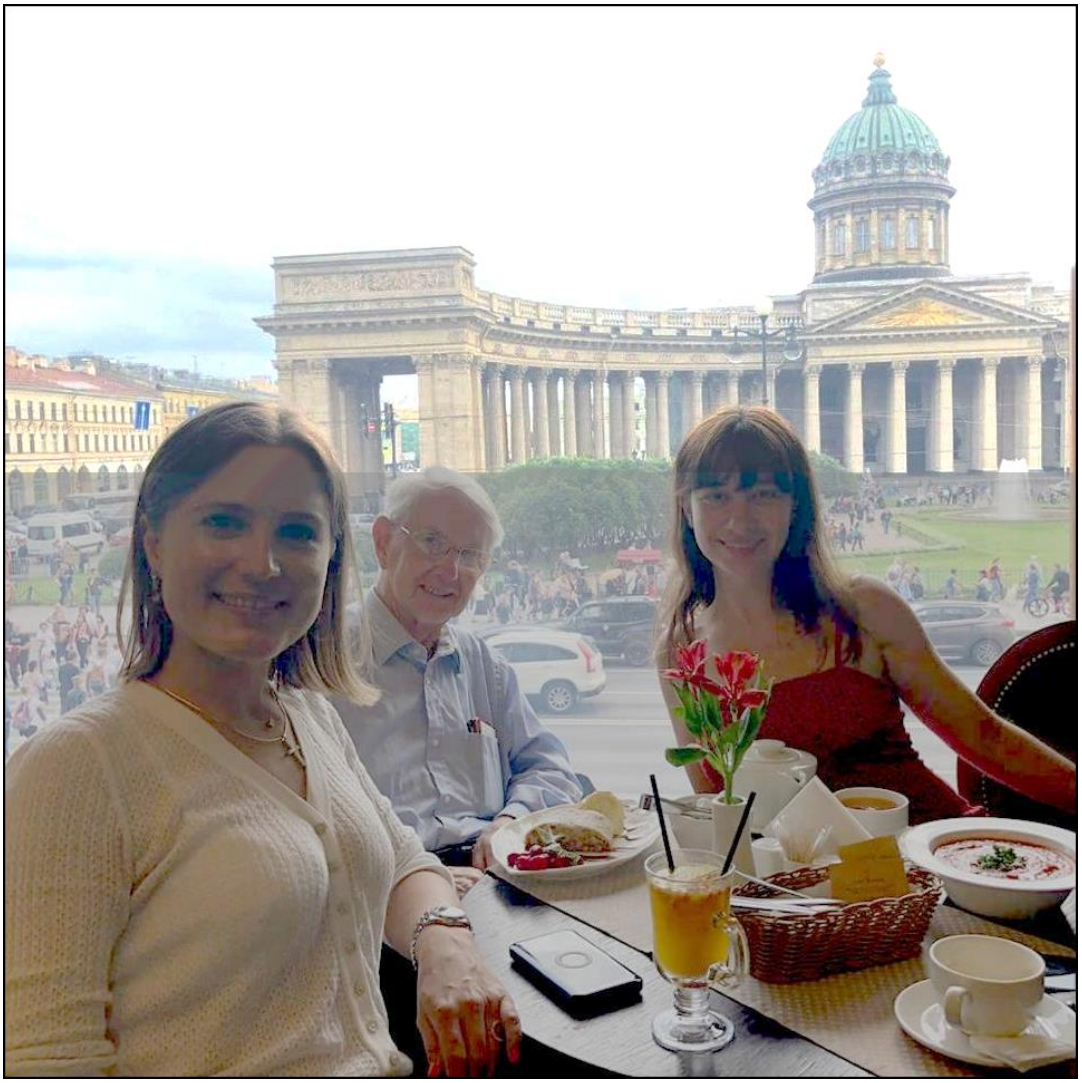
Opus 31 is a slow gentle, mostly quiet *Prelude*. The left hand bears some resemblance, not in the tune, but in the rhythm and style, to the left hand of Chopin's Prelude Op.28, No.4. I kept no record, but I think it started life as an improvisation.

Opus 32 resulted from an improvisation recorded at home on 19th May 2019. It is a short 32 bar piece, and I thought it apt, considering its length and method of creation, to call it *Petit Impromptu*.

What an explosion of creativity I had during November, December and early January! On 5th and 6th January 2020, I published nine compositions. This was as a result of my decision to ignore all end-of-year and New Year celebrations, in order to concentrate on writing music. Those nine pieces were Opus 28 and 30 to 37. A tenth piece Opus 29, I did not like, and I scrapped it, having already allocated opus numbers to the other nine pieces.

Opus 30 is called *Dreaming*. It is a fairly simple piece in three movements written in C major. I have no record of whether or not it started life as an improvisation; if it did, it was probably recorded in May, like Opus 31 and 32.

Opus 33 and **Opus 35**. There is a story to tell here. I was on holiday in St. Petersburg in August 2019. I went with Tatiana Stupak, and we met her school-friend Natasha Gergieva, (daughter of the famous Russian conductor Valery Gergiev). One evening we went to the St. Petersburg Musical Comedy Theatre, to see Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake ballet. During the interval, we came out to a decorative large ante-room, where people were gathering for drinks. I noticed a grand piano in a corner, and cajoled Tatiana to play something, if the instrument were not locked; I tried it - it was open. She and Natasha said something to each other, and Natasha sat down to play a Chopin Nocturne from memory. Tatiana then played most of my Nocturne Opus 18.



Tatiana, me and Natasha in St Petersburg

Then they both ganged up on me, and insisted that I play something. I responded "But I have no music!" That was not a good enough reason for them, so I was obliged to sit down and play! I had to improvise, because I have never been able to memorise music (not even my own). A crowd had been gathering near the piano, while the girls were playing, and with some trepidation, I put my fingers on the keys, and hoped that something which was not rubbish would come out of my head. Fortunately, a quite nice melody (a waltz) appeared after an introductory few bars. It was just a short piece, which I ended as soon as I reasonably could, before continuing too long and making a mess of it. I did not know whilst I was playing, that more and more people had stopped to listen and some of them were filming me. When I stopped and closed the piano lid, a burst of applause and cheers greeted my ears, and Tatiana said "Well done!", whilst still filming me. (I did not realise that she had been filming me on her smart phone).

That video was soon on Facebook of course. When I listened to the recording of the waltz on 18th December, I realised that it was not really long enough to publish as sheet music. I decided to extend it, to make it a longer waltz. But should I still publish the short version? I decided to formalise the short form of the original music, and I wrote down the notes, using Sibelius music notation software; it was obvious to me that I had to call it *St. Petersburg Waltz*. Next day, I posted the original St. Petersburg video recording (including mistakes) on my YouTube account, (at https://youtu.be/N2vgKPJ4SvE), with a note that the sheet music was available for down-loading from SheetMusicPlus.com, having first recorded a better soundtrack and posted it to SheetMusicPlus.com. I then proceeded to extend the music into a full-scale work, which I called simply *Waltz*, Opus 35, with a sub-title, saying that it was a development of the St Petersburg Waltz. I completed Opus 35 on 23rd December, and published it as sheet music on 6th January 2020; later I recorded a soundtrack, and uploaded it to the same website on 21st January.

Opus 34 is my third *Fantasia*. It started life as an improvisation, which I recorded at home on 5th June 2019. It is in seven sections, and in two keys. There is a 16 bar staccato section, which is to be played without pedal. This is one of my favourite compositions.

Opus 36 is a short *Prelude* – just 32 bars. It began life as a 16-bar improvisation, on 28th December 2019. I improved the left hand accompaniment to the right hand melody, but the melody line itself needed no significant change. I then added a variation on the first 16 bars, to create the full 32 bar composition.

Opus 37 is my sixth *Nocturne*, which I think must have been written in December 2019. This was largely a composed work, although it is just possible that the first movement (or part of it) may have been improvised. The structure of the work, in four movements, with the last movement's melody being the same as the first movement, but with an extra voice added for the right hand, tells me that it was mostly not improvised.

Opus 29. On 15th January 2019, I recorded an improvisation, in a very different style: a kind of slow, dreamy, jazzy modernistic piece, which surprised me very much. I had never produced anything like this music before. I allocated the vacant opus number 29 to this piece. It seemed to me that the result was good, but not very suitable as a piano solo piece. However, it would be excellent as an accompaniment to a video – a relaxing video, with scenes of nature. I used for the beginning and end of the video, two short sections of the video which I made during my hot-air ballooning holiday in Cappadocia in 2019. The big central section of the video I filled

with some of my own still photos, and some photos and videos which were available as free downloads from the Internet. I called the resulting recording *Relaxation Video*, and it is on my YouTube account at https://youtu.be/ZWwS1pFC8-Q.

Opus 38 is an *Impromptu*, composed in February 2020, the first of many pieces which I wrote during the enforced period of staying at home during the COVID-19 pandemic. Concentrated composition was the only welcome benefit caused by the disease. The impromptu was published on 16th February 2020.

Opus 39 is my seventh *Nocturne*, originating from an improvisation made on 11th February 2020. The first 24 bars of the improvisation survived in the final work, but the second half of the improvisation I discarded. From bar 24 onwards, I composed largely without improvising. I published the finished Nocturne also on 16th February 2020.

Opus 40. There is quite a story to this composition. I had been playing some Erik Satie music in the late evening of 24th February – probably some of his Gnossiennes. When I get a particular composer's music in my head, if I sit down to improvise immediately afterwards, sometimes one or two ideas from what I have been hearing, emerge in my improvisation – not melody, but elements of the rhythm, and a similar tempo and style. That is why I sub-titled Opus 40 "Inspired by Erik Satie".

I recorded the improvisation just after midnight, and I probably worked on it later on 25th February. I discarded much of the improvisation, but I did keep and develop some of the bars into a work which I like very much. By 1st March I had completed composing the work, but I could not think of a title – a problem which I do sometimes have with my music, so I called it simply Opus 40, and I published it as such.

I sent a recording of Opus 40 to a pianist friend in Paphos – Monika Galantay, whom I had met at an event which I attended with Tatiana Stupak. She listened to it and replied: " …it reminds me of Spring when flowers open....in slow rain …". Soon afterwards I hit on the title: *Flowers in the Rain*.

That worried me a little, because I feared that other music with that title must have been composed already. Some quick research told me that there is no copyright in a music title, which was a relief to learn. But I did do a search, and found that the same title had been used by a famous British Pop Group called The Move, who played their Rock 'n' Roll piece in 1967.

So I changed my title from 'Opus 40' to 'Flowers in the Rain', and then had the idea to make a YouTube video, showing photos of wet flowers. The photos were freely available from pexels.com. The video was uploaded to YouTube on 4th March 2020. At the time of writing this paragraph, I noticed that the appearance of each flower is not synchronised with the rhythm of the music. I need to find time to correct this, but the current address of the video is https://youtu.be/wyUhV8L-qwY.

Opus 41. Sometimes I make recordings of a few improvisations in a single session, and just file them away to work on them later. One or two of them may later be deleted as not being good enough to develop. The others I leave to deal with at another time. Occasionally one gets forgotten, and I discover it later. Such was the case with Opus 41, a *Theme & Variations*. This was partially recorded in 2015, but I did not work on it until March 2020, during the pandemic lock-down. I published it on

21st March. It is a fairly simple work in four movements, the last being a repetition of the first.

Opus 42 is an *Etude*, which I started in March 2020, and published at the end of the month. It is one of my favourite compositions. I think I must have heard Chopin's Etude Op.25 No.6 on the radio earlier in the day, and I could not get it out of my head. He used repeated thirds in the right hand, played continuously throughout the piece, and they are played fast – beyond my ability. I decided to compose something also using thirds in the right hand, but much slower, and not continuously throughout the composition.

My first nine bars are marked Andante, and they follow a similar pattern to Chopin's, but then the two works diverge markedly. My second movement is a slower Larghetto movement without continuous thirds. Finally there is a still slower, more romantic Largo movement, with no thirds at all, until the end of the Etude, which finishes with quiet and slowing continuous thirds in the last two bars.

Opus 43 was developed, also in March 2020, from Opus 42, as my eighth *Nocturne*. It is based on the second movement of Opus 42, and it is in a somewhat simpler form. Taken as a whole, the Nocturne is rather more romantic sounding than Opus 42.

Opus 44 is my ninth *Nocturne*, a romantic piece, based very closely on the first ten bars of an improvisation which I played on 3rd April 2020. I completed it on 13th April. It is very short at only 16 bars, so it was an easy decision for me to call it Petit Nocturne.

Opus 45 is a *Mazurka*, which started life as an improvisation on 3rd April 2020. I discarded the first 40 seconds of the improvisation, and accepted the next 60 seconds or so, which form bars 6 to 30 of the final work. The remainder of the improvisation I ignored, and I worked, on and off, to complete the piece. Probably I improvised just a bar or two at a time. About three weeks later, the Mazurka was complete.

Opus 46 is one of my most favourite *Nocturnes* - the tenth. It was improvised and composed over the period 3rd to 5th May 2020.

Opus 47 is a short 32-bar piece, which did not fit into any obvious category which I could think of, so I called it a *Bagatelle*. I wrote it between 13th and 15th May 2020.

Opus 48 is a short waltz, which I called *Petite Valse*. I improvised it on 17th May 2020, edited it by 2nd June into its final form as far as the notes are concerned, but I did not add the expression marks until early July. I published it on 10th July 2020.

Opus 49 I improvised on 20th April 2020, and continued with further improvisation on 2nd May. On 22nd July 2020, I called it *Intermezzo.* I completed annotation and publishing, on 27th July 2020.

Opus 50 is a *Prelude* - an energetic improvisation, created on 2nd June 2020, and completed on 21st August 2020. I think is a good composition, perhaps having a few characteristics of some music by Rachmaninov. It is my only work so far, which uses the sostenuto (middle) pedal.

My compositions are uploaded to the Internet at www.sheetmusicplus.com. The works which have been uploaded, can be seen at:

https://www.sheetmusicplus.com/search?Ntt=%22David+J+Pentecost%22

The first page or two of each work, can be viewed by a prospective buyer, for assessment without making payment, and an increasing number of sound recordings is also being uploaded, Some works also have a YouTube video version available. Anyone wishing to download a complete composition has first to make an on-line payment via the website. My compositions (* including four arrangements) to date are:-

Opus	Title	Opus	Title
1	Lullaby-Mazurka	26	Theme & Variations
2	Mélodie Triste et en Colère	27	Prelude
3	Rondo	28	Impromptu Dance
4	Fantasia	29	Relaxation Video
5	Rondo-Scherzo	30	Dreaming
6	Reverie	31	Prelude
7	Waltz	32	Petit Impromptu
8	Song without Words	33	St. Petersburg Waltz
9 *	Prelude - J. S. Bach BWV855	34	Fantasia
10 *	A Chloris - Reynaldo Hahn	35	Waltz
11	Prelude	36	Prelude
12	Etude	37	Nocturne
13	Nocturne	38	Impromptu
14 *	Zueignung - R. Strauss	39	Nocturne
15 *	Musetta's Waltz - Puccini	40	Flowers in the Rain
16	Theme & Variations	41	Theme & Variations
17	Etude	42	Etude
18	Nocturne	43	Nocturne
19	Nocturne	44	Petit Nocturne
20	(Printed book of Op.1 to 19)	45	Mazurka
21	Prelude	46	Nocturne
22	Fantasia	47	Bagatelle
23	Prelude	48	Petite Valse
24	Nocturne	49	Intermezzo
25	Nocturne	50	Prelude

Two concerts of my own compositions

Tatiana Stupak once suggested that I have a concert of my own compositions. I rejected the idea, because I was fairly sure that it would be a financial disaster, because only a handful of friends would go. In Cyprus it is difficult enough to get a decent sized audience to a piano recital, given by someone who is known to the public. For a composer who is totally unknown, almost no one would go.

Tatiana had opened her own music school at the Russian House, at 9 Riga Fereou Street, (demolished in 2020), not long before I relented, and agreed to have a recital of my music there, on 11th February 2018. There would not be a loss, because there would be no hire fee to pay. Entry would be free; only friends would be invited, and a few members of my family. For various unavoidable reasons, from my family, only

my brother Edward and his wife Tricia were able to come – they flew via London from Tenerife, and stayed in Limassol for a few days.

A new and better sounding grand piano had been ordered, to replace the one already installed at the school, and it was to be delivered the day before the concert. But a call from the piano company informed us that because of illness of the owner, the piano could not be delivered until the following week. So we would have to make do with the existing piano. That was the first piece of bad news, and more was to come.

My two pianist friends Tatiana Stupak and Natalia Lezedova had agreed to play my compositions, because I was unable to play them properly, as a result of arthritis, especially in my left hand, and age was taking its toll on my brain-finger co-ordination. However, near disaster struck several days before the concert: Tatiana was confined to bed with fever, and it seemed unlikely to me that she would be able to play, although she declared that she would, come what may. A few hours before the start of the concert, the situation was not looking good, and I decided that I would have to try to play as many of my compositions as possible, and I started to practise about six or so of them, which I had not played for several years. To my extreme relief, Tatiana arrived at the school just as I was about to begin without her, but she told me that she could play only a short programme. I explained that I would play the pieces which I had just been practicing, so that she could shorten her recital.

Me, playing one of my compositions, 11th February 2018

That is what happened, and all the scheduled compositions were played by the three of us. There were many mistakes, but the good thing was that no one in the audience had heard any of the music before, so most of the mistakes were not noticed. We had drinks and snacks afterwards, and the whole event was declared by everyone to be most enjoyable. It was an extremely memorable occasion for me.

A few weeks before this concert, I had decided that while Tatiana and Natalia were familiar with the music, we should repeat the concert in public. I had bitten the bullet, and decided that the concert would be at the Technopolis 20 Cultural Centre in Paphos, where we were all three known, Tatiana and Natalia having both played there previously, and where I had made several videos. I had booked the venue for 13th February, just two days after our private concert in Limassol. The poster below I designed myself; the photo was taken at a concert in Nicosia on 4th October 2017, where Tatiana had played one of my compositions, and Natalia another.

Tatiana was still unwell, but she struggled through her entire programme, except for one piece, my Opus 24 Nocturne, which I decided on the spur of the moment, that I would play, as the last work in the concert. Although I had played before audiences several times in my life, I was nervous, because this was the first time that I had ever played truly in public, before a paying audience, and without practice on the concert piano. I made some mistakes, but the fact that I played at all was appreciated by the audience. The last scenes of the concert can be seen on YouTube at:

https://youtu.be/nJ1R6Oer7iM

The hall was not full, and I made a loss from the concert, which I had expected. Nevertheless, I was very happy that I had arranged the event. My brother Edward and his wife Tricia came to the concert.

Technopolis 20 Cultural Centre

18 Nikolaou Nikolaidi Avenue, 8010 Paphos

Tuesday 13th February 2018, 8 p.m.

TWO PIANISTS – ONE COMPOSER

Tatiana Stupak & Natalia Lezedova

will play beautiful, mostly romantic, classical works by

David Pentecost

A few of his compositions have been heard and very much appreciated by audiences at Technopolis 20 since May 2017. Here is an opportunity to hear more of his music.

Programme: Op.1 Lullaby-Mazurka, Op.2 Mélodie Triste et en Colère, Op.4 Fantasia, Op.7 Waltz, Op.8 Song without Words, Op.6 Reverie, Op.11 Prelude, Op.9 Prelude: Bach BWV855/Siloti/Pentecost, Op.10 A Chloris: Reynaldo Hahn, arranged for piano solo, Op.14 Zueignung: R.Strauss, arranged for piano solo, Op.12 Etude, Op.13 Nocturne, Op.16 Theme & Variations, Op.17 Etude, Op.18 Nocturne, Op.19 Nocturne, Op.21 Prelude, Op.22 Fantasia, Op.23 Prelude, Op.24 Nocturne, Op.25 Nocturne.

Tickets: €10. Reserve by telephone call: 7000 2420

Contact: Email: info@technopolis20.com www.technopolis20.com

The poster/programme which I designed.
The photo was taken at Kasteliotissa Hall, Nicosia, after a concert, during which each pianist played one of my compositions.

One of the photos, taken just after the concert on 13th February 2018.
You can see the Opus 24 music on the piano.

Composing Competition

A Limassol retired music school owner, Dr. Nefen Michaelides, had for several years been organising an international music competition in Limassol, in co-operation with music organisations in Moscow, including the Moscow State Conservatory. I knew her, because I had met her many times at Limassol concerts in the Rialto Theatre.

CENTER FOR SUPPORT AND PROMOTION OF CONTEMPORARY ART
named A. KARAMANOV, Moscow, Russia
RUSSIAN SCHUBERT SOCIETY, Moscow, Russia
DR. NEFEN MICHAELIDES PROFESSIONAL MUSIC SCHOOL, PIANO DEPARTMENT,
Local organizer and sponsor in Limassol, Cyprus

IV INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION OF MUSICIANS
IN CYPRUS

Diploma laureate
I PRIZE
in the nomination
« COMPOSITION»
awarded
DAVID PENTECOST (CYPRUS)

JURY

PRESIDENT OF THE COMPETITION AND JURY MEMBER
Honored Worker of Culture of Moscow, Ph.D., laureate of International Competitions,
Professor of the Russian State University A. Kosygin, Maimonides Academy, General Director of the
Center for Support and Development of Contemporary Art named Alexandar Karamanov
ELENA KLOCHKOVA (Russia)

Ph.D. music Internationally known musicologist and piano pedagogue
NEFEN MICHAELIDES (Cyprus)

Laureate of International Piano Competitions,
piano pedagogue of the Arte academy of Music
MANOLIS NEOPHYTOU (Cyprus)

Artistic director and chief conductor of the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra,
Laureate of International Competitions
JENS GEORG BACHMANN (Germany/Cyprus)

CHAIRMAN OF JURY
Honored Artist of Russia, Laureate of International Competitions,
Professor of the Moscow State Conservatory P. I. Tchaikovsky (Vocal)
KONSTANTIN CHRISTOFF (Russia)

CYPRUS, July 2018

She persuaded me to enter in the composition category, for the 2018 competition, in July, so I submitted a CD with five compositions on it. I won first prize (only a certificate - above); but there were only two entrants for composition: there are not many classical music composers around, and we were in different age groups, so we both won! Inevitable, so it was not much of a competition.

I was spoken to afterwards, by the music professor from the Moscow Conservatory (in the brown shirt), and by Jens Georg Bachman, (in the blue shirt, and at the time, conductor and music director of the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra, who congratulated me and said that they liked my music. That meant much more to me than the piece of paper.

****

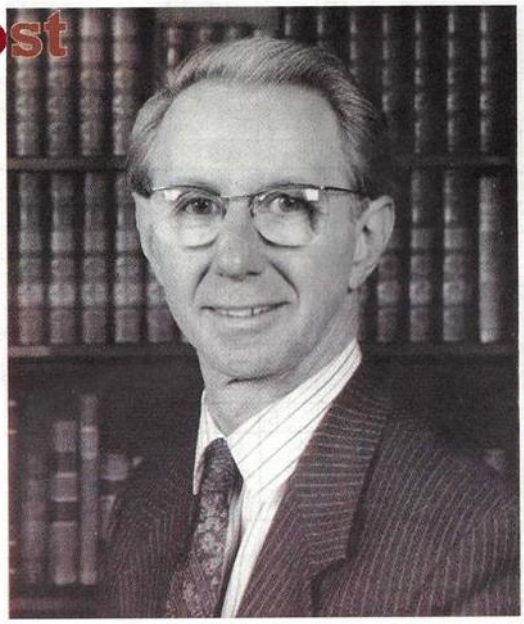
My activities in the world of classical music in Cyprus, especially in relation to public concerts, led to my becoming fairly well known to a minority section of the population. This led to a request from the Sunday Mail for me to answer some light-hearted questions for a regular feature which the paper publishes, called A Minute With ….. Below is what they published in 2018:

SundayMail
JULY 29 - AUGUST 4
living

David John Pentecost

Classical music composer

Lawrence of Arabia



Where do you live?
Limassol. I live alone by choice, but have very good friends in Limassol.

Best childhood memory?
Being taken out of school by an uncle to watch a West Indies v England cricket match at Lords.

Most frequented restaurant and absolute favourite dish?
Raj Tandoori in Limassol. Chicken korma.

What food would you really turn your nose up to?
So many I can't list them all! Peppers, anything fatty, pasta, anything with a rubbery texture, anything containing orange peel, everything candied, cream, milk, cold soup... Does the list ever end? I dislike far more than I like.

What did you have for breakfast?
Wilkin & Sons Tiptree No Peel Marmalade, sent to me from UK, on toast. And a fresh peach. And a piece of fudge, also from UK.

Would you class yourself as a day or night person? What's your idea of the perfect night/day out?
Day. Hot air ballooning, for the fantastic views of other balloons and the landscapes.

Best book ever read?
Samuel Pepys' Diary, for the detailed description of 17th century life in London.

Favourite film of all time?
Lawrence of Arabia, for the best cinematography ever, prior to computers becoming involved with film making; and it's a great true story.

Favourite holiday destination?
Skiing in Switzerland when there is snow every night and sunshine every day. For the exhilarating feeling of 'leaning on the wind' while whooshing downhill. And the magnificent mountain views.

What's your dream trip?
A few days on the International Space Station

What music are you listening to in the car at the moment?
A Brahms Symphony would be a favourite, or almost anything by Chopin.

What is always in your fridge/ freezer?
A frozen curry from Marks & Spencer

Dream house: rural retreat or urban dwelling? Where would it be, what would it be like?
A detached house near supermarkets and the beach, with a large room for a Steinway grand piano, and a recording studio also with a Steinway piano. So that my music could be recorded easily, and to have small concerts for friends.

If you could pick anyone at all (alive or dead) to go out for the evening with, who would it be?
Beethoven, before he lost his hearing – to take him to hear one of his symphonies being played in a modern concert hall with a modern orchestra.

If the world is ending in 24 hours what would you do?
Talk to my children and friends to say goodbye. Be with a close friend for the last ten minutes.

What is your greatest fear?
Being in a confined space in the presence of a giant spider on the loose.

Tell me a joke...
A problem I have is forgetting all good jokes after a few days!

Sunday Mail, 29th July 2018

♪♪♪♪♪♪Chapter 12: Pianists' Circles in Cyprus ♪♪♪♪♪♪

MUSICAL*notes*

Pianos, pianists and performances

By Saskia Constantinou

THE PIANO was invented by Bartolomeo Cristofori in Florence, Italy as early as 1698 and, like most inventions, was based on earlier technological innovations. Cristofori's early instruments were quieter than the modern piano but could produce a wider range of dynamics than the clavichord, and the sound was sustained longer. Piano making flourished in the 18th century, with the term fortepiano often used to distinguish the 18th century style of instrument from later pianos. Since the beginning of the 20th century, progress has only been incremental, with two types of configurations, the upright and grand piano.

During the 18th and 19th centuries, few families could afford pianos and they were generally only owned by the aristocracy. At the time, girls had lessons more often than boys as it was conceived that the ability to play made young women more marriageable. Women then continued to play as adults and provided music in the household. However, a solo career was typically open only to men – Clara Schumann being an exception.

As the middle classes increased, there was a corresponding rise in the importance of the piano, and it became common in public places such as hotels and schools. Families who could now afford pianos adapted their musical abilities to the new instrument, and the piano became a major source of music in the home.

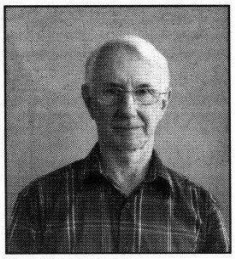
Amateur pianists remained informed of the doings of the leading pianists and composers of the day with professional virtuosi writing books and study methods, which sold well among amateurs. Amateur pianists obtained satisfaction from coming to grips with the finest music, even if they could not always perform it from start to finish. A favourite form of recreation was playing works for four hands with other members of the household singing or playing other instruments.

The invention of the radio in the 1920s and the Great Depression of the 30s dealt a severe blow to amateur piano playing as a form of domestic recreation, as piano sales dropped dramatically and many manufacturers went out of business. However, the piano survives today in many 21st century homes and although it is unlikely that it contributes to the marriage potential of daughters, piano lessons teach children concentration and self-discipline and open the door to a world of classical music.

In Cyprus, a new venture – the Pianists' Circle is being organised and formed by amateur pianist and composer David Pentecost, who, after several years of extended visits to Cyprus, has now settled here permanently.

The Pianists' Circle is founded on the concept and idea of The Chopin Society (London) where for many years, Pentecost was a member. "The Pianists' Circle will be a group of pianists who meet regularly in private homes to play to each other in very informal settings. The concerts will not be open to the general public – only to performers and possibly friends, space permitting. The objective is to make friends, have fun, improve each pianist's standard of playing and help each other to overcome the greatest hurdle – playing before an audience. As most amateur pianists are solitary souls and usually play for their own pleasure, as soon as they are aware of an audience they tend to become nervous or lose concentration. The Pianists' Circle is an opportunity to overcome these difficulties while improving the standard of performance."

Pentecost recounted his first experience at the Chopin Society: "I was so nervous that I couldn't stop my legs shaking and wasn't able to pedal! Fortunately, most others were in the same state, and were sympathetic. After a few meetings our nerves calmed and subsequently so did our playing and we began to enjoy ourselves!



David Pentecost

"I envisage a Circle being formed in each town, so eliminating a lot of travelling, and would like to ask all interested pianists to contact me. Each Circle will need at least six pianist members, with a suggested membership of possibly one or two dozen."

To maintain informality and keep costs low, meetings will take place in members' homes but members who cannot host a meeting should not be deterred from joining.

How would the monthly Circle meetings work? "Each Circle organiser will request volunteers at forthcoming concerts, and devise a schedule. The pianists will select the music they would like to perform, not longer than 15 minutes in total, and to provide a good selection of music without repetition the organiser will ensure that no piece is played more than once in any six month period. No one will be expected to play from memory."

Discussing the standard of playing, Pentecost continued: "It is important that each pianist chooses pieces well within their playing ability – it's better to play something you know well rather than a difficult piece badly.

"My advice is to resist the temptation to play a piece which you have just struggled to learn, rather hold back for a few months until you have really mastered it."

You can contact David Pentecost on 99-117265 or by email at Pentecost@cytanet.com.cy for further information. Those who feel that their abilities have progressed sufficiently could consider taking part in the Piano Competition for Outstanding Amateurs organised by von Cliburn, which takes place once every four years featuring 75 of the world's greatest amateur pianists. This year, the competition will be held from May 28 in Fort Worth, Texas and you can hear amazing performances by doctors, lawyers, nurses and homemakers – people from all walks of life! Until you are ready though, do telephone David Pentecost and have fun with the *Pianists' Circle*.

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Investing in cultur

I mentioned earlier the Chopin Society's members' matinée events, which allowed mostly amateur pianists to play in a private group together. In February 2005 I had the idea to try to start something similar in Cyprus, so I advertised in newspapers and in music shops, seeking interested pianists. There was no response.

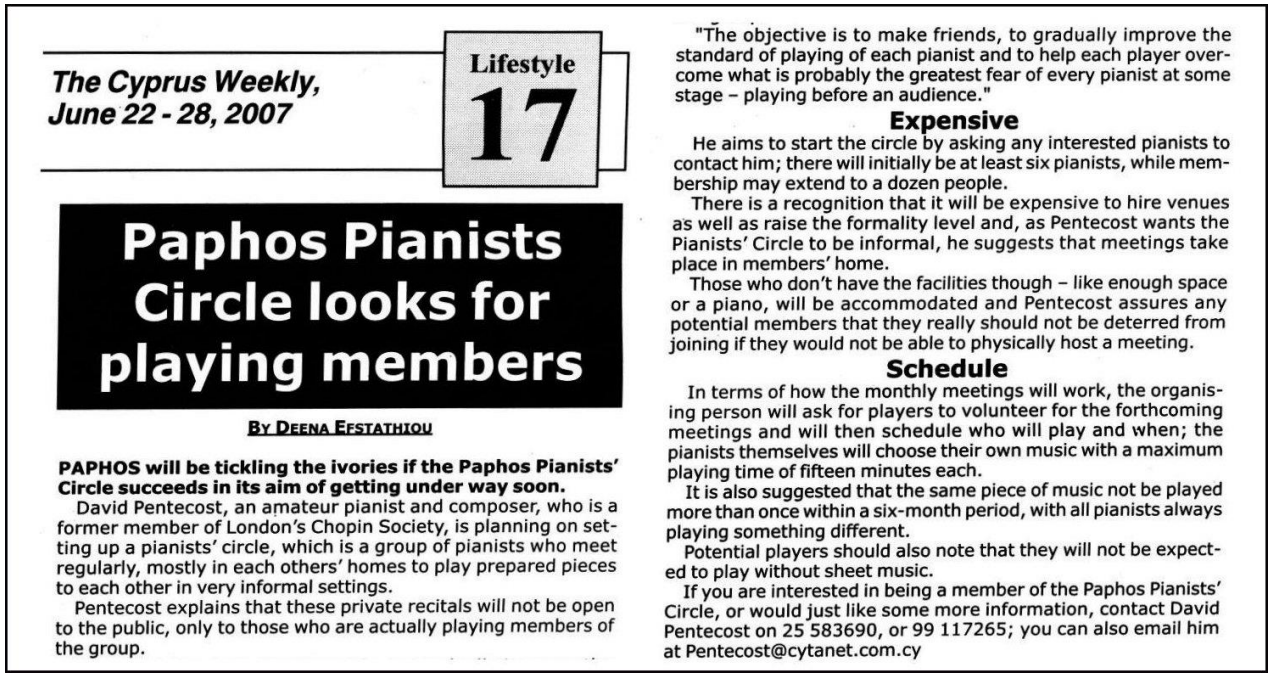
In March 2007 I read Saskia Constantinou's Musical Notes column in the Sunday Mail, which is an English language newspaper in Cyprus. I contacted her, and she agreed that if I would write a description of what I proposed, she would produce an article for her newspaper column, and post a notice on her new website. The press article was published on 29th April 2007. It is shown above.

The article produced only one reply, from Agnes Tang, a pianist in Paphos. We exchanged views, agreeing that perhaps the first pianists' circle could start up in Paphos, if we could find another five or so pianists. I produced some posters in English and Greek for display in various Paphos locations, and Agnes arranged to distribute them. Meanwhile I had found the Paphos Music Forum on Saskia's website, with Stephen Willis as the contact. I emailed him in May, and a week or so later, his wife Doris (a lapsed pianist) emailed me. She said that she had a suitable room with a grand piano, where pianists' gatherings could take place, and that she would contact two pianists she knew.

On 25th May 2007, I was interviewed on CyBC Radio 2 in their Nicosia studios about the pianists' circles, which I hoped to start up in the major towns of Cyprus. And in June, I was interviewed on British Forces Radio, from a radio car.

By early June, we had found about half a dozen pianists – enough to start the Paphos Circle. The pianists met on Sunday 17th June at the Willis home in Tala, to get to know each other and play a little. Doris Willis offered to run the Paphos group, in order to allow me to continue to try to start groups in other towns.

On 22nd June, the Cyprus Weekly published an article (below) which I did not write, but I found that the article came from a Paphos public relations lady, Janice Ruffle, who had sent it to the newspaper's journalist:



The Cyprus Weekly,
June 22 - 28, 2007

Lifestyle 17

Paphos Pianists Circle looks for playing members

By Deena Efstathiou

PAPHOS will be tickling the ivories if the Paphos Pianists' Circle succeeds in its aim of getting under way soon.

David Pentecost, an amateur pianist and composer, who is a former member of London's Chopin Society, is planning on setting up a pianists' circle, which is a group of pianists who meet regularly, mostly in each others' homes to play prepared pieces to each other in very informal settings.

Pentecost explains that these private recitals will not be open to the public, only to those who are actually playing members of the group.

"The objective is to make friends, to gradually improve the standard of playing of each pianist and to help each player overcome what is probably the greatest fear of every pianist at some stage – playing before an audience."

Expensive

He aims to start the circle by asking any interested pianists to contact him; there will initially be at least six pianists, while membership may extend to a dozen people.

There is a recognition that it will be expensive to hire venues as well as raise the formality level and, as Pentecost wants the Pianists' Circle to be informal, he suggests that meetings take place in members' home.

Those who don't have the facilities though – like enough space or a piano, will be accommodated and Pentecost assures any potential members that they really should not be deterred from joining if they would not be able to physically host a meeting.

Schedule

In terms of how the monthly meetings will work, the organising person will ask for players to volunteer for the forthcoming meetings and will then schedule who will play and when; the pianists themselves will choose their own music with a maximum playing time of fifteen minutes each.

It is also suggested that the same piece of music not be played more than once within a six-month period, with all pianists always playing something different.

Potential players should also note that they will not be expected to play without sheet music.

If you are interested in being a member of the Paphos Pianists' Circle, or would just like some more information, contact David Pentecost on 25 583690, or 99 117265; you can also email him at Pentecost@cytanet.com.cy

The Paphos circle met again in September 2007, a few more pianists were found, and these meetings continued to be held every few months, led by Doris Willis. During the next 18 months, the group grew to just over a dozen players, perhaps with the help of more publicity as a result of this free advertisement placed by Doris Willis in the April 2009 edition of the Paphos Post:

PAPHOS PIANISTS' CIRCLE
Amateur, adult, classical music pianists meet once a month or so, usually Sundays at 3pm, in private homes, to play a few pieces in a very informal setting, before a small, friendly and sympathetic audience of our fellow players. Free membership. Doris Willis - Tel: 26652437, 99900560. Email: pianists@cytanet.com.cy. Or willis@cytanet.com.cy

I wrote a letter to the Cyprus Weekly at the end of November 2007, based on the following draft press article, trying to recruit pianists for groups in other towns, especially hoping to find Limassol pianists:

Amateur Pianists Wanted!

Following the recent successful launch of the Paphos Pianists' Circle, four further pianists' circles are now to be formed in Larnaca, Limassol, Nicosia and the Famagusta-Paralimni area. All interested pianists who are good amateur adult players, and would like to find out more about joining their nearest pianists' circle are urged to contact the founder of these circles, David Pentecost, an amateur pianist and composer, on 99117265 or by e-mail to pianists@cytanet.com.cy. Membership of these new circles will be free of charge.

What is a pianists' circle? It is a small group of pianists who meet regularly, perhaps once a month, in private homes to play prepared pieces (normally of classical music) to each other in very informal settings. These recitals will not be open to the general public – only to the performers (and their friends, if space permits). The objects are gradually to improve the standard of playing of each pianist, to widen each pianists' repertoire, and to help each other to become accustomed to playing before a small audience.

In order to maintain informality and to avoid spending money on hiring venues, recitals are expected to take place in members' homes. Pianists are encouraged to join, even if they would be unable to host a meeting, for it is recognised that not all members will have a suitable room and a good enough instrument.

How will the monthly Circle meetings work? The organiser of each Circle will ask for volunteers to play at the forthcoming concerts, and will schedule who is to play and when. The pianists themselves choose the music they would like to perform – as many pieces as they like, but not normally lasting for more than about 15 minutes in total. In order to provide a good selection of music and to avoid repetition, the organiser will normally ensure that no piece is played more than once in any six month period, and that no pianist will ever play the same piece more than once. It is not expected that pianists will play without sheet music. The circles are intended to be for pianists of all nationalities, and so the organisation of membership and of recitals will be conducted in English.

David says: "It is important that each pianist should choose pieces which are well within his/her playing ability, in order to maintain good standards of performance. It's better to play something which you know well, than a piece of a more difficult standard, which perhaps you have just learned and are much more likely to make mistakes playing. There is often a tendency for a pianist to want to play the piece he/she is currently learning, which for an improving player will typically be a little more difficult than the previous piece learned. My advice is to resist the temptation to play a piece which you have just struggled to learn, and to hold back playing this for a few months until you have really mastered it".

More information can be found in the Societies section of the website devoted to classical music in Cyprus, which can be seen at www.cyprusclassical.com. [Now non-existent]. **Interested pianists should contact David Pentecost on 99117265, or by e-mail to pianists@cytanet.com.cy.** [Email address no longer in use].

I had just one reply, from a Limassol pianist, artist, singer-songwriter, and journalist, Nathalie Kyrou, early in December, who was to prove helpful to me in the coming years, in the operation of the Limassol circle. We kept in touch, but by a year later, we had found no more Limassol pianists. Nathalie came with me to a Paphos circle concert on 30th November 2008. It was in a bungalow with an extraordinary garden, on a slope, with a spring welling up on the higher ground, and trickling down to feed a pond which was stocked with small fish; beyond were tall reeds growing in a patch of swampy ground outside the garden - most unusual for Cyprus, to find a naturally watered garden. I remember that I gave my best ever performance of Beethoven's Pathétique sonata that day; I have never played it so well since then.

On 16th February 2009, it was Nathalie, who after moving house and gaining Internet access, set up an account on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pianists with the idea that this might help us to find more pianists. (It was this account which eventually in 2012, I started to use as my personal Facebook account).

David Pentecost, Koumis Philippou, Nathalie Kyrou, Ludmila Budanova, Vera Yudina, Pearl Norman, Agnes Tang, Tom Groves
From Cyprus Weekly, 29th May 2009 - First Pianists' Circle meeting in Limassol, 17th May.

Early in March 2009, I had a telephone call from a prospective new member living in Larnaca, Koumis Philippou, a teacher, who in due course joined our second group, in Limassol, although at the time, there were still too few players to hold meetings. Over the previous two years, I had made contact with a few players through my then membership of UKCA, but none of them were keen about joining us, for various reasons. I decided to hold a little concert in my Limassol flat for our three Limassol players, and to invite members of the Paphos group to come as well; four of them agreed to come and play. Somehow I made contact with a Russian pianist, who played piano for a Russian friend who was a soprano singer, and they agreed to take part. In the end we had eight musicians.

The event was successful, and Cyprus Weekly published an article for us, (not quite accurate after they had edited it), but it was good publicity. See the photo above, and the text of the article below.

THE CYPRUS WEEKLY MAY 29 - JUNE 4, 2009

Limassol Pianists' Circle

Piano fans will now have an opportunity to practise and enhance their piano skills through the Limassol Pianists' Circle. Established in Paphos two years ago, the Circle has now expanded to Limassol. David Pentecost, the founder of the Circle came up with the idea after being a member of the Chopin Circle in London.

"After being in the Chopin Circle in London, I thought it would be a good idea to set up a circle in Cyprus." Members of this new group held their inaugural private concert earlier this month, a hugely successful event which was supported by three pianists from Paphos Pianists' Circle.

Four pianists and a soprano singer from Limassol and Larnaca played a wide selection of classical music. The programme included piano solo works by Albeniz, Beethoven, Brahms, Chopin, Khachaturian, Liszt, Mozart, Rachmaninoff and Scarlatti, and four operatic arias.

As pianists playing at these small private events are not expected to be of professional standard, this is an ideal opportunity for those who have perhaps not played for many years to gradually refresh their skills, by practising a few pieces to perform at forthcoming monthly concerts.

According to Pentecost "the objects of the Circle are gradually to improve the standard of playing of each pianist, to widen each player's repertoire, and to help each other to become accustomed to playing before a small friendly and informal audience."

The Circle meetings works through the organiser, who asks for volunteers to play at the forthcoming recitals, and schedules who is to play and when. The pianists themselves choose the music they would like to perform – as many pieces as they like, and normally lasting between five and 15 minutes in total. It is not expected that pianists will play without sheet music.

More pianists are being sought, to increase the membership and amateur pianists are all welcome to contact the Circles' founder, David Pentecost. Although the newly formed Circle is based in Limassol, pianists from other districts are very welcome to join and no fees are payable.

The future plans of the Circle is to expand even further and perhaps turn into an institution. According to Pentecost, "in the long run we are hoping to set up a Circle in all the major cities and maybe eventually hold a public concert".

For more information contact pianists@cytanet.com.cy or telephone 99117265.

The Cyprus Weekly article resulted in a call from a Japanese lady, Syuko Umetani working in Cyprus, who was both a pianist and flautist, and she subsequently joined the Limassol circle. In June, Nathalie told us about Costas Polyviou, and he also was to join us. The following month, on 5th July, 2009, Koumis and Syuko both played at the Paphos circle's concert, and enjoyed their time there.

Early in July, four of us in the Limassol circle met one evening in my flat for an extremely informal time, playing piano and table tennis!

On 20th September 2009, five of us had another informal get-together, which I described in the following email to my family:-

"Yesterday afternoon, from 4 to 6.30 I held my 3rd concert here with a drinks and snacks interval. This time very informal - no invited guests - just the 5 musicians and 2 of their close friends. I accompanied Syuko (Japanese girl) who played Bach on her flute; no rehearsals but it went extremely well. Costas played piano film music without any sheet music - remarkable; he just listened to recordings and worked on it, making up his piano version. Koumis played some Chopin; he likes to have the mental comfort of the sheet music but hardly looks at it. Nathalie (a Canadian Armenian Cypriot) played some Chopin and Albeniz. I played a couple of rare Chopin pieces as quiz items, and Rachmaninov's Elégie, the latter after weeks and weeks of practice - very beautiful but a difficult piece for me, and it went well. At the end, I persuaded Syuko to play (unrehearsed - she has no piano at home) a little of Chopin's fantastic Study Op 25 No 12; her playing was amazing! I felt like the old man that I now am, with everyone else, I imagine, aged about 30!"

I have come across a report I made on 14th February 2010 about the state of the pianist circles. Here is part of it:-

"My pianists' circles here in Cyprus continue to meet, albeit with a bit of a struggle. The Paphos Circle meets about 6 times annually, and the standard has noticeably risen over the last few years. Here in Limassol, currently there are only about six of us playing, and we started meeting last summer, hitherto always in my apartment.

We have a new recruit, a tennis friend, Graham Lock, an organist, who has a Steinway grand piano in his house, and I am hoping that a future gathering will be at his home, which is in a tiny village in the hills between Limassol and Larnaca. He has built a small 'house' in his garden as a sound-proofed home for his church organ, which makes a wonderful, monstrous sound!"

Graham subsequently joined us for our concerts on those occasions when he was free to do so, but he declined to play the piano for us. I was very pleased that he came, even if only to listen, because he once talked about letting us have a concert at his home, on the Steinway.

In early July 2010, I had a phone call from Tatiana Steppe, enquiring about our Limassol group. We met on 6th July, and subsequently she joined the Limassol circle. She and her husband invited me and Nathalie to their home in Erimi for a chat, and we went there on 6th August.

Also in August, Costas told me that he had a friend, Angela Kouali who wanted to join the Limassol circle. She joined us at our concert on 12th September.

Tatiana Steppe offered her home as a venue for our next concert, which could not be arranged until 23rd January 2011, because of the extreme difficulty of finding enough players available on the same date. I had printed and placed in the foyer of the Rialto Theatre, some cards, advertising the Limassol circle; a few people had contacted me in the autumn of 2010, but none of these enquiries resulted in anyone joining us.

The Limassol group next met at Graham's home in Parekklisia on Sunday 17th April, 2011. Costas said that he would bring a Russian friend, Tatiana Stupak, whom he said played better than he did. And Koumis arranged for a contact of his, Leonid Nesterov, a brilliant Latvian jazz pianist, to come along as well. The concert was very successful.

Tatiana Stupak offered her flat as the venue for the next concert, which we fixed for Sunday 26th June 2011. Here is a photo of the event, showing the eight pianists:

Me, Leonid Nesterov, Koumis Philippou, Tatiana Steppe, Tatiana Stupak, Nathalie Kyrou, Chris Smith, Costas Polyviou,

Our next concert was again at Graham's home, arranged for 18th September 2011. Tatiana Stupak brought a young student of hers, Aliki, who also played. New to the group was Chris Smith, from Paphos but working in Limassol, who telephoned me out of the blue, asking if he could join the group. Several people brought a guest, and there were over twenty people present. See the photo of the eight musicians on the next page.

A few weeks before the concert, I was contacted by a woman who was acting for a Russian bassoonist. She had found my name on the Internet, when she was looking for pianists in Cyprus. She needed to find someone to accompany Andrey Snegirev, a bassoonist, who was going to audition to join the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra. I asked Tatiana Stupak if she would be interested to play, and I left it to her to contact Andrey, which she did. They met, and Andrey gave her the sheet music for his audition pieces. Andrey wanted the opportunity to play before an audience, so he came to our 18th September concert, Tatiana accompanying him on the piano. The audition took place in Nicosia on 25-26 September, with 37 other bassoonists competing, and later we heard that he had come second; a few weeks later, we also heard that he had joined the symphony orchestra. So we all felt that the Limassol Pianists' Circle had really achieved something worthwhile. I saw him playing with the orchestra at the Rialto Theatre on one or two occasions. A few months later, we noticed that he was no longer playing in the orchestra, and nothing more was heard of him. I recently (2020) did a search on Google, and found him listed as a bassoonist with the Russian National Orchestra.

Me, Leonid Nesterov, Tatiana Stupak, Chris Smith, Aliki, Andrey Snegirev, Costas Polyviou, Nathalie Kyrou

Here is the programme of music played on 18th September 2011:

Beethoven, Sonata Op.31, No.2- Final movement	David Pentecost
Bach, Sonatina No 6 in D Minor, BWV 1019	Nathalie Kyrou
Bach, Invention No. 8 in F major, BWV 779	Nathalie Kyrou
Mozart, Bassoon concerto in B flat, K191.186e:	Andrey Snegirev
I. Allegro, II. Andante ma Adagio	& Tatiana Stupak
Chopin, Waltz Op.64, No.2	Costas Polyviou
Gershwin, Lady Be Good	Leonid Nesterov
Matt Bellamy (of Muse), Butterflies and Hurricanes	Christopher Smith
Beethoven, Excerpt from 5th Symphony arr. for piano	Aliki
Mendelssohn, Wedding March,	Aliki
excerpt from Suite of Incidental Music	
Hatzidakis, Min Rotas Ton Ourano (Don't Ask the Skies)	Nathalie Kyrou
Strauss J II, The Blue Danube (abridged)	Nathalie Kyrou
Saint-Saens, Sonata for bassoon & piano	Andrey Snegirev
II. Allegro scherzando, III. Molto adagio	& Tatiana Stupak
Elgar, Variations: Op.36 No.12 – B.G.N.	David Pentecost
Taylor & Dallas, Theme from Film XX TV programme	David Pentecost
(See www.youtube.com/watch?v=k4lRmG_UXy8)	
Bach, C.P.E., Solfeggio in C minor,	Costas Polyviou
Errol Garner, Misty	Leonid Nesterov
Chopin, Nocturne, Op.9 No.2	Koumis Philippou

Meanwhile, in Paphos, Doris Willis had been trying to arrange a concert there for 2nd October 2011. She wrote an email to me on 25th September, saying that several members of the group appeared to be losing interest; also there were health problems, and one pianist was returning to the U.K.

I immediately replied to Doris, making some suggestions, but agreeing with her that acting as organiser of the concerts was extremely frustrating at times. She was, like me, having difficulties getting enough pianists together, and she would raise the subject of the future of the group at the next meeting. The objective of meeting monthly, at least in Limassol, had been unachievable, and we were meeting only about every two months or more. I had not been well, and I told her that I would resign as organiser of the Limassol group in November, and invite someone else to take over.

In early December, I heard a whisper from one of the Limassol members, that two other members were likely to leave the group soon, and this proved to be the case

On 9th January 2011, I wrote to all Limassol circle pianists:-

"Hello everyone,

The next piano concert will be at Tatiana Stupak's apartment on Sunday 22nd January starting promptly at 4pm.

I am still not well enough to guarantee being fit enough on the day: I hope to be there to play, but I can't at the moment be too positive about that.

Directions to Tatiana's apartment are below; photo directions are attached. Please reply to Tatiana, who will be preparing the music programme.

David"

I had been having severe and unpredictable abdominal and stomach pains for some weeks, resulting in a minor stomach operation. Several preventative treatments were tried, as well as symptomatic treatment measures. I had told Tatiana Stupak about the problems, and she had offered to hold the next meeting at her flat. I think that the stress caused by the extreme difficulties of organizing the concerts had contributed to my health problems. I told her that I planned to give up organising them, and to hand over to someone else.

On 19th January, I emailed everyone again:

"Further to my email to you dated 9th January, when we scheduled a pianists' concert for this Sunday, 22nd January at Tatiana Stupak's home, no one has replied to Tatiana to say that they will come. So the concert has had to be cancelled, because of lack of support. If you are willing to play on a later date, please let me know, and suggest some dates when you will be available. Thank you.

David"

I received no replies - the Limassol circle's life had come to an end. In Paphos, Doris was continuing to have problems, with lack of enthusiasm and numbers attending, and coincidentally at about the same time, the Paphos circle ceased to be. But it had lasted for more than a year longer than the Limassol circle.

The stress having gone, my health improved!

It was continuing to be a time in Cyprus, generally, of depression and worry. As a result of the severe economic crisis, there were currency restrictions, banks going bust, money being taken from some bank accounts by the government, and cash withdrawal limits being imposed. Perhaps the depressed mood of the population as a whole, contributed to the demise of our music groups.

Nothing lasts for ever, and that includes my two pianists' circles. But they proved to form a very significant aspect of my life in Cyprus. Except towards the end of the circles' existences, the activities I created were most enjoyable, and had required me to learn some new skills, and revive some old ones learned half a century earlier, particularly in dealing with the news media.

Most importantly, I made some new and very good friends, and those friendships remain, after the demise of the pianists' circles.

Below is a list of most of the works which I played at the two pianists' circles; (L for Limassol, P for Paphos).

15.07.2007	P	Beethoven, Largo from Sonata No.4, Opus 7
	P	Chopin, Nocturne in C minor No.21, Posthumous
	P	Beethoven, Scherzo and Trio from sonata No.2, Opus 2 No.4
	P	Chopin, Mazurka no.7, Opus 21 No. 4
02.12.2007	P	Beethoven, Largo, Minuet+Trio, Op.10 No.3
24.02.2008	P	Schumann, Three Romances, Op.28 No.2,
	P	Chopin, Contredanse, Posthumous
	P	David Pentecost, Waltz, Op.7
	P	Chopin-Liszt, Frühling, S.480, No.2
	P	David Pentecost, Mélodie Triste et en Colère, Op. 2
15.06.2008	P	Chopin, Prelude 11
	P	Chopin, Prelude 12
	P	Chopin, Prelude 13
	P	Humphrey Lyttleton, Bad Penny Blues
30.11.2008	P	Beethoven, Pathétique Sonata
17.05.2009	L	Chopin, Mazurka in F Minor (Posth), Op.68, No.4
	L	Beethoven, Piano Concerto No. 4: Andante con moto, Op.58
	L	Rachmaninoff, Prelude, Op.23 No.4
	L	Beethoven, Rondo from Sonata Pathétique, Op.13
13.09.2009	L	Chopin, Contredanse
	L	Rachmaninoff, Elégie, Op. 3 No 1
	L	Chopin, Nocturne, C Minor
17.01.2010	P	Chopin, Etude, Op. 10 No. 6
	P	Schumann, Grillen (Fantasie), Op. 12
	P	Bach, Prelude (1, Book 2) , BWV 870
	P	Rachmaninoff, Elégie, Op. 3 No. 1
24.01.2010	L	Chopin, Etude, Op. 10 No 6
	L	Schumann, Grillen from 'Fantasie', Op. 12
	L	Bach, Prelude (1, Book 2) , BWV 870
12.09.2010	L	Chopin, Waltz, Op. 69 No 2
	L	Chopin, Etude No. 26 (Posth.), No. 2 of Trois Etudes
	L	Chopin, Etude No. 27 (Posth.), No. 3 of Trois Etudes
	L	Schubert, Impromptu (abridged), Op.90, No.4
06.02.2011	P	Bach/Siloti/Pentecost, Prelude BWV855
	P	Handel, Suite 11
17.04.2011	L	Chopin, Mazurka, Op. 63, No.2
	L	Chopin, Mazurka, Op. 63, No.3
	L	Chopin, Mazurka, Op. 63, No.4
	L	Satie, Gnossienne, No. 3
26.06.2011	L	Brahms, Waltz, Opus 39, No.9
	L	Brahms, Waltz, Opus 39, No.10
	L	Brahms, Waltz, Opus 39, No.11
	L	Brahms, Waltz, Opus 39, No.15
	L	Rachmaninoff, Elégie, Op.3, No.1
18.09.2011	L	Beethoven, Sonata Op.31, No.2- Final movement
	L	Elgar, Variations: Op.36 No.12 – B.G.N.
	L	Taylor & Dallas, Theme from Film XX TV programme See www.youtube.com/watch?v=k4lRmG_UXy8 for the original TV recording.

Chapter 13: A music career for Tatiana Stupak

All was fairly quiet on the music front for me from 2012 until 2015, apart from doing some composition, and attending some public concerts in Limassol and Paphos, which I had done ever since coming to live in Cyprus. Music trips to Paphos were usually for the annual opera near the castle by the port, although I did not attend every single opera. I did once go to a very good concert in Nicosia, but afterwards I resolved to do it no more; the long drive to the capital for an 8.30 start, meant a late end to the concert, which in turn meant a very late return to Limassol at around midnight. I found it too tiring. I have always disliked the car journey to and from Nicosia. I once went to a concert in Larnaca Town Hall, and that journey was much easier.

2015 was to result in a major change in my life. In the autumn of 2014, Rosie Collings had started a music group for the Limassol U3A, operating from her home in Lania, and I had registered my interest. I learned that the purpose of the meetings had been to listen to recordings of favourite music by the group's members, and that no live music had been contemplated. The recordings format did not much appeal to me, because I had a large music collection myself, and the journey to Lania was not one which I welcomed.

Sadly, Rosie for personal reasons had to give up leading the group, and Janet Bureau (founder of the U3A in Cyprus) took over running the Music Appreciation Group. I was receiving invitations to the meetings, and Janet wrote to all of us in February 2015, announcing a meeting at her home on 13th February, to listen to/watch some recordings. I replied, saying that I would not be going.

On 9th February, I wrote to Janet, asking her to take me off the mailing list, stating my view that music recordings did not much appeal to me, and that there should be events in other formats. But I went on to say that I might be able to arrange some live music or music lectures at my home, where I had a piano. I wondered if any group members knew of someone who played an instrument.

Janet replied, saying that she would put my ideas to the next meeting in a few days' time.

On 16th March, 2015, I wrote to the best classical music player who had been in my Limassol Pianists' Circle, Tatiana Stupak, asking her if she would be interested to give a piano recital some time in 2015, before a small audience of perhaps 15-20 people. The music programme would be entirely her choice, and so would the date, time and length of the recital.

On 17th March, Janet wrote to me, saying that there had been interest in my ideas, and asking if I would continue to try to get Tatiana to play for the group, and she also asked if I could suggest anyone to give an illustrated talk for the April meeting. It was later agreed that I would arrange to present an illustrated recorded talk and some other unique recordings on 17th April at a group member's house in Erimi.

The event proved to be a triumph, after a series of tragic and frustrating disasters, best described in a report which I sent to some relatives the following day:-

"I gave an illustrated talk to the Limassol U3A music group yesterday. It was supposed to be about Beethoven's tenth symphony (CD), James Rhodes on three Chopin works (DVD), and Rachmaninoff's 1920s piano rolls, reproduced on a modern adapted piano, and 'played' by the composer (CD).

I could not find the venue, and spent about an hour calling on the phone to the host, to try to get directions. I was of course much later arriving than I had intended, and when I finally arrived at the house, the technician whom I wanted to meet, had left, so I found two pieces of equipment which he had delivered, and which I had to figure out how to use.

One member of the group arrived in a car, and tripped while getting out of the car, breaking her arm. She had brought her laptop, which I needed, to hook up to the image projector, for use with a big roll-up screen. One member of the group took the injured lady to hospital.

The remaining audience settled down, while I struggled to connect the projector to the laptop, and the external speakers (which I had brought with me) to the laptop. The tab key didn't seem to work on the laptop. I managed to get the projector to work, and eventually produced some sound out of the speakers.

But I couldn't get the computer to play any music. Software with which I was familiar, was not loaded on the laptop.

After half an hour messing around with no fully functioning computer, we debated whether to try to carry on, or abandon the afternoon. We agreed that I should spend five more minutes on the computer, and if I didn't get it working, we would all go home.

I was struggling to get the Beethoven 10th symphony CD to play. The computer would only play two 'pop' songs which were stored on it. The symphony was preceded by a recorded lecture about the music. Suddenly, the speakers burst into life playing the symphony – I knew not how – 45 minutes late - but not playing the preceding lecture. I had not given my short introductory talk about the symphony's discovery, but we decided to capitalise on our luck and let the music continue. Afterwards I gave my short talk. Then I tried and somehow succeeded in getting the recorded lecture to play.

Next, I tried to play the James Rhodes Chopin works from the DVD, which were on track 3. But I was unable to navigate to track 3, and the computer insisted on playing the first track, which was Beethoven's Waldstein piano sonata. So we agreed to accept the enforced change in the programme and resigned ourselves to listening to more Beethoven. I spoke about James Rhodes after the Beethoven, instead of before the recording.

At some stage, while I was still struggling with the machinery, we had a tea break.

Finally we had scheduled some piano tracks from a Rachmaninoff CD to be played. Unfortunately this CD had not been delivered to me in time by Amazon, but I had brought with me almost the same set of recordings on another CD, which we managed to play without much of a hitch.

We finished the session after 6pm, about 90 minutes later than had been planned. But all agreed, in spite of the technical difficulties that it had been very enjoyable and most worthwhile."

By 27th March, I had agreed with Tatiana, that she would give a piano recital on Sunday 28th June. She needed time to practise, because she had played little since 2011, when my pianists' circles had ceased operating. The venue had then been decided as my flat in Limassol. She did not have enough music memorised, to play both before and after a tea interval. So we were to have one of my James Rhodes' recorded DVD lectures after the interval, and perhaps some pieces played by me on the piano.

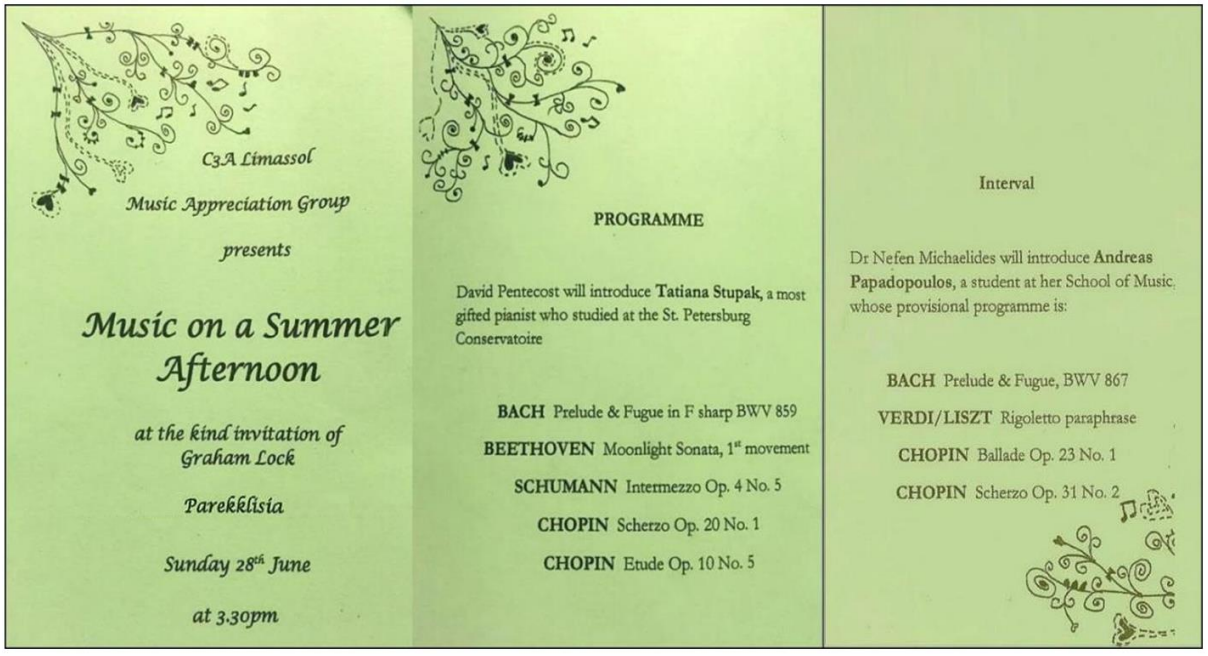
I wrote to Graham Lock, inviting him to come to my flat to hear Tatiana play, and he responded by offering his home to the group, so that Tatiana could play on his Steinway piano. So it was agreed that the 28th June concert would be at his home. But the second part of the concert still needed to be arranged, and because a video

could not be conveniently shown in Graham's piano room, we began a search for a second good pianist.

I met Dr. Nefen Michaelides at her Limassol music school on 8th May, to ask if any of her pupils would be able to play at our June concert. She was keen to help, and I said that I would be able to drive her to the venue in Parekklisia. She had a student, Andreas Papadopoulos, then doing his National Guard service, and who was to play at her school on 21st June. She would ask him if he could arrange also to be free on 28th, to repeat his music programme. He said that he would be pleased to play, if he could persuade the Army to release him.

With the uncertainty involved, I decided that I would have to prepare something to play, should Andreas not be available at the last moment. So I practised Beethoven's Pathétique Sonata, but not being at all confident about playing with sheet music on a grand piano, which always gave me vision problems.

About 28 people gathered on 28th June in Parekklisia, and I was preparing to play, because Andreas had not yet arrived. Just in time, he appeared with his parents, I made the introductions, and the concert began.



C3A Limassol

Music Appreciation Group

presents

Music on a Summer Afternoon

at the kind invitation of Graham Lock

Parekklisia

Sunday 28th June

at 3.30pm

PROGRAMME

David Pentecost will introduce **Tatiana Stupak,** a most gifted pianist who studied at the St. Petersburg Conservatoire

BACH Prelude & Fugue in F sharp BWV 859
BEETHOVEN Moonlight Sonata, 1st movement
SCHUMANN Intermezzo Op. 4 No. 5
CHOPIN Scherzo Op. 20 No. 1
CHOPIN Etude Op. 10 No. 5

Interval

Dr Nefen Michaelides will introduce **Andreas Papadopoulos,** a student at her School of Music, whose provisional programme is:

BACH Prelude & Fugue, BWV 867
VERDI/LISZT Rigoletto paraphrase
CHOPIN Ballade Op. 23 No. 1
CHOPIN Scherzo Op. 31 No. 2

It was very successful. Afterwards, I wrote an article for the press, and sent it off to a few newspapers, with some photographs. Above is the programme of music, and below, a press article and some photos of the event.

The Cyprus Mail article is at the time of writing, still on the newspaper's website at http://cyprus-mail.com/2015/07/01/the-first-of-many/. I took my draft of the article to the offices of the local Russian newspaper Vestnik Kipra, and they translated it, printing it on 3rd July.

CyprusMail 1 July 2015

0 COMMENTS ENTERTAINMENT, WHAT'S ON

The first of many

ENTERTAINMENT

By David Pentecost

On Sunday past the recently formed Music Appreciation Group of the Limassol Branch of the Cyprus Third Age (C3A), held its own first live music event, at the home of one of its members in Limassol.

The member has a fine Steinway grand piano, which was a particular attraction for the two solo pianists – Tatiana Stupak from Russian and Andreas Papadopoulos from Cyprus – both of whom began playing at the age of five.

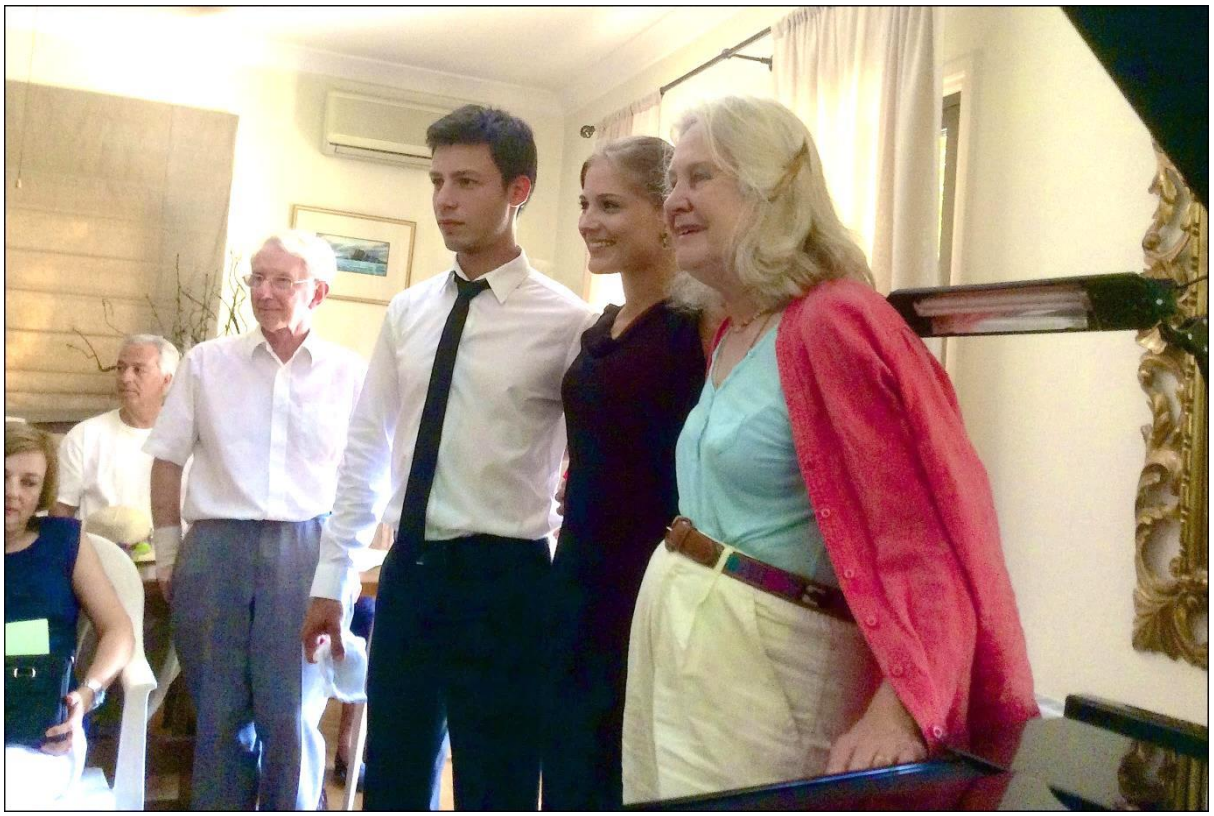
Stupak studied at the St Petersburg Conservatoire until 2009, and chose to play Bach's Prelude & Fugue BWV 859, Schumann's Intermezzo Op.4 No.5, Chopin's Etude Op.10, No.5, the first movement of Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata, and concluded her recital with Chopin's Scherzo No.1.

Papadopoulos is now a student at the music school of Dr Nefen Michaelides in Limassol, and performed Bach's Prelude & Fugue BWV 867 followed by a Liszt transcription of music from Rigoletto by Verdi, he concluded with two works by Chopin: Ballade No. 1 and Scherzo No 2.

Both pianists performed their chosen works to a great round of applause. The first show was such as hit that the audience was asking afterwards when the next concert would be held.

So in response there are already plans in motion for the next event to take place sometime in the autumn, and it will probably be one where pianists play live, but this time, in the form of a musical lecture.

My Cyprus Mail article



Me, Andreas, Tatiana and the music group founder, Rosie Collings

Tatiana with our host, Graham Lock

Andreas Papadopoulos and Tatiana Stupak

At Graham Lock's home

After the concert, I wrote to Tatiana, saying that I would like to have a private concert at my flat for some friends, and would she please play the same programme again? She responded saying: "Good evening! I thank you a lot for the concert, it was nice and I'm glad that I started to play again. Was so nice feeling. Thank you for photos. Of course I will play at your home, just tell me when. My mom is so happy and sends her greetings. Tatiana"

The private concert at my flat was arranged for Sunday 26th July, and there were about twenty of us – just friends of Tatiana and me.

Below is the text which I subsequently sent to Vestnik Kipra, and underneath that, is what they printed.

"The Limassol based Russian pianist Tatiana Stupak gave a brilliant recital in Limassol on Sunday 26th July, before an invited audience. She performed works by Bach, Beethoven, Chopin and Schumann. Particularly noteworthy, was her brilliant playing of Chopin's first Scherzo and his Etude Op.10 No 5. The audience was delighted by her interpretation of the less well-known Intermezzo Op.4 No.5 by Schumann.

Stupak then also gave world première performances of two works by British composer David Pentecost, who has lived in Limassol since 2004: his Fantasia, written in 1999, and a Bach-like Prelude written in 2014, which was performed on the organ. The composer was present at the recital, and played one his compositions, Reverie, a gentle dream-like work, and Chopin's Nocturne Op.32 No.1."

В мире музыки

Очередной блестящий концерт фортепианной музыки состоялся в Лимассоле 26 июля. В исполнении российской пианистки Татьяны Ступак прозвучали произведения Баха, Бетховена, Шопена и Шумана.

Особо следует отметить ее блестящую игру Скерцо №1 и Этюда ор.10 №5 Шопена. Публика была в восторге и от интерпретации менее известного произведения Шумана – Интермеццо №5 Ор.4.

В тот же день собравшимся были представлены две работы британского композитора Дэвида Пентекоста, живущего в Лимассоле с 2004 года. Его написанная в 1999 году «Фантазия» и созданная в 2014 году и исполненная на органе «Прелюдия в стиле Баха» очень порадовали слушателей.

Присутствовавший на концерте композитор также исполнил одну из своих композиций под названием Reverie и ноктюрн Шопена Ор.32 №1.

Tatiana playing my piano, 26th July, 2015

The concert was very informal, and many stayed behind to talk, have drinks and snacks. Two of my guests from Paphos were Tom Groves and June Evans. They, and a few others, told Tatiana that she really should give serious thought to giving public recitals, because she played so well.

Tom and June were members of my old Paphos Pianists' Circle. They told us about a relatively new hall in Paphos called the Technopolis 20 Cultural Centre, which was available to hire for concerts. It had seating for about 70 people, and a new grand piano. Subsequently I made enquiries about the terms of use of the hall, and it was to become a venue which would in future be used by Tatiana on several occasions.

From then on, Tatiana started seriously thinking about practising more, and playing in public. I said that I would help her, and I started to research where there were suitable places in Cyprus for her to play, what their facilities were, number of seats in the hall, hall hiring costs, type of piano and so on. There were significant problems, partly because Cyprus had no tradition of western classical music. Piano playing had not been sufficiently popular for recital facilities to be well developed. Most halls had no piano. Yes, there were a few large halls, in theatres, where there was a grand piano. Those venues were too large for Tatiana to play in, at that early stage in her career, for it would be impossible to fill such places, and the hire costs of the halls were in any case very high. Cyprus did not have pianists visiting from overseas able to fill such places. The few visiting pianists usually came only once annually, and they did not even half fill places like the Rialto Theatre in Limassol.

We had to find smaller halls, such as the one we had been told about in Paphos. I did find a few of suitable size, seating up to 200 people. The difficulty was that many of them had no piano, or a poor piano of unacceptable quality. This was a problem which had been recognised by one enterprising piano tuner, Panos Christofides, whom I found. He had acquired about half a dozen pianos, including some grand pianos, and had set up a business hiring them out. He would arrange transportation, tuning at the destination hall, and removal next day. Costs would range from €350 to €700 euros.

I first talked to the managers of the Technopolis hall in Paphos. The hiring terms were reasonable, and I asked if they would allow us to book the hall for Tatiana to play there. They responded by saying that they needed some assurance of the standard of her playing, and could I send them a CD for assessment?

We had no such CD, so the next step was to hire a studio to make some recordings. I searched for studios, and found several in the island, but it seemed that they were all equipped with electronic keyboards, and they generally did recordings for singers, guitarists and small pop music bands. Eventually we found one, Soundscape Studios, run by Chris Charalambides, a friend of Tatiana for some years. The studio, in Souni village, about half an hour's drive north of Limassol, had a Yamaha grand piano. It seemed to be the only studio in the island with such a piano.

We made an appointment to hire the studio for an hour on 8th September 2015. I thought that we should seek permission to make our own video recording, as well as having the professional CD sound recording made by the studio owner. He agreed that I could take my video camera.

It was fortunate that I had the camera, a small ZOOM model Q4. I had bought it a few months earlier, not really wanting a video camera at all, but a good quality sound recorder, so that I could make some sound recordings of myself playing. I was advised that it would be better for me to buy a small video camera, but one which had a bias towards the sound recording aspect rather than the video aspect. That is what I did, and I was pleased with the sound quality.

Tatiana's first recording session, 8th September 2015

I took the video camera along to the recording studio, and set it up on a tripod which I had had for years, for occasional use with my still camera. The video camera would not be moved around, but would remain in a fixed position, trained on the piano and pianist. The technician was in an adjacent room, a large sound-proof glass window separating us, so that we could signal to each other about starting and stopping, and to allow him to adjust the sound levels on his recording equipment.

After adjusting the studio lighting appropriately for my camera, we began to make the first set of recordings: Chopin's Etude, Op.10 No.5, Schumann's Intermezzo, Op.4 No.5, and Chopin's Scherzo, Op.20. I had to watch the video camera, and keep totally silent, just stopping the camera after each piece of music, and restarting it for the next one.

After the session, the technician did some editing out of unwanted sounds from the beginning and end of the recordings, and transferred them to a CD, which Tatiana took away, and later gave to me to upload to my Dropbox account on the Internet, so that I could advise the managers of Technopolis in Paphos, that they could now listen to Tatiana playing. I e-mailed Markella Neocleous on 11th September, and she replied later the same day as follows:

"Dear David, Thank you very much for your mail. The recordings are really good and we really like the playing. It would be great if you can send us the video when it will be completed. Of course we can discuss about available dates for a recital. When is the most suitable period for you? Regards"

Below are some photos taken at the studio.

At Soundscape Studios, Souni

At home, I had, with some trepidation, removed the memory card from my camera, and connected it to my computer, to play the three video recordings. This had been my first ever attempt at making such recordings. Would they be of acceptable quality? I was very pleased that the sound was good enough, and the picture quality was not bad.

But I had a big task ahead – how to edit the videos? I had to remove unwanted footage from the start and end of each piece of music, make some adjustments to the lighting, add opening titles to introduce the music, name the pianist, add the date

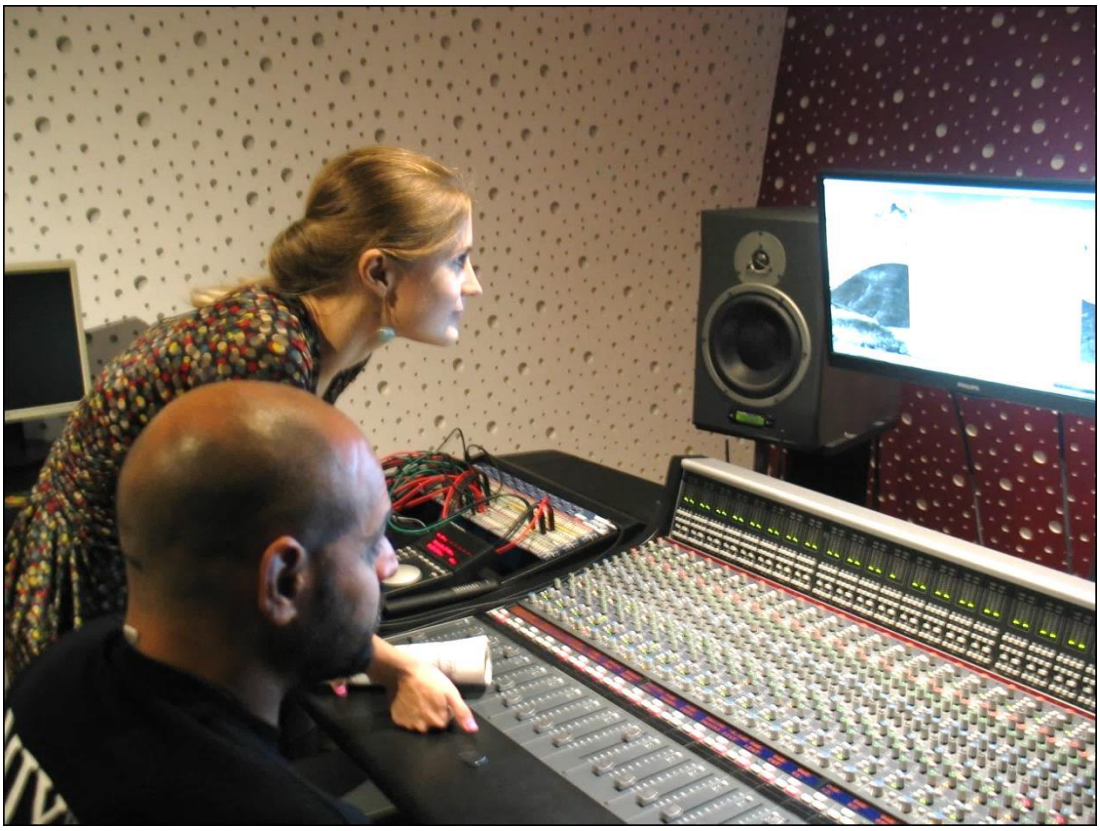
and then create endings to each recording, giving credits to the recording studio. I didn't know how to do any of these things. I had researched the market and bought some sound and video editing software, Cyberlink's PowerDirector, which I had not yet used seriously, and I first had to learn how it worked. As with most software, there was an on-line user guide, but I learned most techniques by trial and error. The screen displays were partially intuitive. It took me many hours of work to learn the basics of how to achieve the simple things that I wanted to do.

Tatiana by now had seen my three recordings, and wanted to put them on her YouTube account, which she had opened ages before for some reason, and had almost forgotten about. I had to explore how to upload videos to YouTube. So I opened a YouTube account for myself and began experimenting. After some trial and error regarding formats and some other factors, I learned how to do this, and from 11th to 15th September I worked almost non-stop, processing and uploading the three videos one by one to Tatiana's YouTube account, where they remain today. [Those five days of work, would now take me less than a day].

Before I say more about the concert which was to take place at Technopolis, I shall finish telling you about two more recording sessions which we arranged, from October 2015 to January 2016.

On 24th October we visited Soundscape Studios again, to make three more recordings: Bach's Prelude & Fugue, BWV 859, Prokofiev's 'Mercutio' Op.75 No.8 from Romeo & Juliet, and Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No.11. This last recording required three partial 'takes', so although the resulting CD recording was fine, it was not possible to produce the third video properly, because of imperfect visual aspects.

Soundscape Studios, 24th October 2015



Tatiana and Chris Charalambides

On 9th January 2016, we made the third studio visit, recording Chopin's Nocturne Op.9 No.2 and Bach's Prelude BWV 846

The videos from the first recording session having been uploaded to YouTube, I advised Technopolis in Paphos. I began to think about publicity for the forthcoming concert, finding out about advertising rates in various newspapers, and thinking about design of posters, business cards and a website for Tatiana.

At the end of September 2015, I heard from Panos Christofides, the piano tuner who hired out pianos, of a location suitable for an outdoor summer concert. It was at the home of the famous sculptor Philippos Yiapanis. I arranged with Philippos to visit his home, and Tatiana and I went to see his sculpture garden. We agreed that it was in a supremely beautiful setting and would be an excellent location for a summer event. It had to be one of the most beautiful locations in Cyprus, on the outskirts of Fasoula village.

At the start of November, I checked and commented on the first draft of Tatiana's website, which had been developed by the husband of a friend of hers; by the middle of the month, after many revisions, an acceptable version was produced, which went live at http://tatianastupak.com.

By 16th November, we had settled on 29th January 2016 for the Paphos concert, and I booked the date with Technopolis. Tatiana's programme of memorised music was not long enough for a full concert, so she arranged for the jazz pianist Leonid Nesterov (from my Limassol Pianists' Circle) to play the second half of the concert, after the interval. I was somewhat concerned about mixing classical music and modern jazz at the same event, but all we could do was hope that tickets would sell.

I drafted some text for Technopolis to put on their website for our January concert, and agreed a final version with Tatiana and Leonid.

Tatiana made arrangements with Leonid for designing and printing of posters for the concert, after I had produced a draft on 23rd November which neither she nor Leonid liked. That did not surprise me, since I am not very good at original artistic design work.

It took until 29th December for Leonid to produce an acceptable poster design. I took the design to a printer, Iakovos Sarris, whom I had found near the Rialto Theatre, and two days later, I collected the flyers and posters, and took them to Tatiana for forwarding to Technopolis.

I also created a map of the Technopolis area in Paphos, giving travel directions to their building, for Tatiana and Leonid to email to their contacts, and to put on Facebook.

Tatiana arranged to be interviewed a few times on Russian Wave radio, to help promote the event.

On 9th January, I drafted an article about Tatiana, promoting the concert scheduled for the end of the month. I submitted it to Cyprus Weekly and to the Cyprus Mail, and Tatiana arranged for a translation into Russian, which I sent to Vestnik Kipra. Cyprus Weekly accepted my article and printed an edited version, which is below. The Russian newspaper displayed an article on their website. The Sunday Mail also printed an article, based on the text which I sent to Technopolis. The two English newspaper articles follow, and below them is the poster for the event which I did not design, and the programme, which I did design and print.

30 ART SCENE | FRIDAY JANUARY 22 2016 | THE CYPRUS WEEKLY | in&out

Stupak's journey to Technopolis

Tatiana Stupak's first public professional recital at the Technopolis 20 Cultural Centre in Paphos pinpoints her journey as a musician on the island.

Tatiana Stupak was born into a non-musical family. Nevertheless, at the age of 2, her father bought her a piano and she started learning how to play in a local music school at the age of 5. By the age of 7, her parents were advised to send her to a special music school of the St. Petersburg Conservatory where she studied under Rubina Asya.

During her studies, Tatiana won a Bach international competition and an Organ international competition in Russia. She also gave concerts all over Germany, in Austria and in Russia. After 11 years at the school, she continued her studies at the St. Petersburg State Conservatory in the class of Professor Leonid Sintsev after which she moved to Cyprus.

In 2011 she joined the Limassol Pianists' Circle - a small group of enthusiastic pianists who met a few times each year to play to each other, after practicing to improve their playing standards. That group was dissolved in 2012, after which, Tatiana played only occasionally in private to a few friends.

In 2015 she was invited to play at a meeting of recently formed Music Appreciation Group of C3A Limassol and played at the group's first live music event held in June at the home of one of its members, who had a fine Steinway grand piano.

In September she was asked to play at a charity event in Limassol. It was here that she was fortunate enough to be heard by President Anastasiades and the First Lady, who were in attendance, and was invited to attend the forthcoming Cyprus-Russian Gala at the presidential palace. Another piano recital followed at the Russian

***TATIANA** Stupak*

House in Limassol in December, as part of the Christmas festivities.

Tatiana's first public professional recital in Cyprus has now been arranged for Friday, 29th January at the Technopolis 20 Cultural Centre in Paphos. She will be playing classical pieces by Bach, Chopin, Liszt, Prokofiev and Schumann. After the interval, her friend Leonid Nesterov will be playing some jazz standards, including some of his own compositions. Tickets can be reserved by calling 7000 2420.

Cyprus Weekly, 22nd January 2016

SundayMail
JANUARY 24-30
living

▶ MUSIC

Two pianos,

This Friday Technopolis 20 Cultural Centre in Paphos will present two pianists from very different backgrounds who will meet to give an end to January to remember.

Pianists Tatiana Stupak and Leonid Nesterov will perform a programme for classical and jazz music lovers.

Stupak will take on the classical part of the evening and perform works by Bach, Chopin, Liszt, Prokofiev and Schumann. Nesterov will be the one in charge of jazzing up the evening with a performance of some well-known jazz pieces and some of his original compositions.

Stupak, from Russia, started playing the piano at the age of five. She studied at the Conservatory music college and at the Rimsky-Korsakov St Petersburg State Conservatory. The pianist has performed as a soloist in Russia, Austria, Germany and most recently in Cyprus, where she has been living since 2007.

Nesterov found his musical calling in Latvia and moved to Limassol in 2010. He regularly organises jazz concerts in Cyprus, where he performs with the Leonid Nesterov Trio. He also plays with various musicians from the Baltic States, Germany, United Kingdom, Russia, Israel and other countries.

Classical and Jazz Music Concert

Live performance by Tatiana Stupak and Leonid Nesterov. January 29. Technopolis 20, Paphos. 8pm. €10. Tel: 70-002420

TECHNOPOLIS 20
Friday, 29 January 2016 20:00
Classical & Jazz Music Concert
Tatiana Stupak (piano)
Works by Bach, Chopin, Liszt, Prokofiev, Schumann
Leonid Nesterov (piano)
Jazz standards and originals
RUSSIAN MEDIA GROUP
Tel: 7000 24 20 Tickets: €10
Address: Nikolaou Nikolaidi Avenue 18, Paphos
More Information: www.technopolis20.com

TECHNO.POLIS 20
cultural centre
Nikolaou Nikolaidi Avenue 18, 8010, Paphos, Cyprus

Classical and Jazz Piano Concert

Friday, 29th January 2016 at 8 p.m.

Programme of Music

Piano solos by Tatiana Stupak:

Bach:	Prelude & Fugue, BWV 859
Schumann:	Intermezzo, Op.4 No.5
Chopin:	Scherzo No 1, Op. 20
Bach:	Prelude, BWV 846
Prokofiev:	'Mercutio' from Romeo & Juliet, Op.75 No.8
Chopin:	Etude, Op.10 No.5
Liszt:	Hungarian Rhapsody, No.11

Interval

Piano solos by Leonid Nesterov:

A selection of jazz standards and some of his own works

We were worried about the number of tickets being sold: a few days before the event, only about 20 seats had been taken. But there was a last minute rush, (which we now realise is typical for Cyprus), and the hall was filled to capacity, with a few extra people being admitted to the café area; some had to be turned away.

The concert was a triumph, and after her recital, Tatiana was weighed down with more flowers than I had ever seen given to any pianist. One of Tatiana's sponsoring organisations, Russian Media Group (RMG), had filmed the concert, and in due course, another sponsor, Afisha Magazine, produced a DVD for her to put on sale at future concerts.

I took a copy of RMG's original video, extracted the last piece which Tatiana played, Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No.11, edited it and uploaded it to her YouTube account, where it still is today, at www.youtube.com/watch?v=74-R9bneVvI.

At the end of this video, you can see the flower presentations referred to above.

Here are three photos taken at the concert, the first while I was making an introductory announcement:-

29th January 2016, at Technopolis 20, Paphos

29th January, 2016 at Technopolis 20, Paphos

Leonid Nesterov and Tatiana Stupak after the concert

We had a celebration dinner on 7th February, at Columbia Steak House, to discuss future music plans

I have dealt extensively above with the first public concert I organised, which was also Tatiana's first professional concert, because it played such a significant part in my life since moving to Cyprus. In fact, the whole of the eight months from the first U3A concert in Parekklisia until the January concert, was a most extraordinary time for me. I never expected to experience such a thrilling series of events. There was constant hard work, but it was very rewarding.

Four other events happened during that period which I have not previously mentioned, because I did not want to interrupt describing the flow of events directly relating to the January concert. I shall now write about these four events.

The June concert for the U3A and the subsequent private concert in July at my flat had more consequences. Tatiana had made up her mind to try henceforth to play the piano in public, (and where possible, in a professional capacity), something which she had not done since completing her training at the St. Petersburg Conservatory.

So she created as much publicity for herself as possible, using her Facebook accounts, where she had over four thousand Facebook friends. And of course she spoke directly to people she met, letting them know that she was now playing in public. I helped with publicity, by putting as many announcements and articles as I could, in the press and in other publications.

On 31st July 2015 at The Russian House in Limassol, an art exhibition was held, and Tatiana volunteered to play, while an artist friend of hers drew a portrait of her, and simultaneously a dance was being performed. There was no piano at The Russian House, so she arranged for her Clavinova to be transported to and from the premises for the performances to be possible. I went to film the musical event, but it took place outside in semi-darkness, and there was not enough light for the camera. I wrote an article about the event, which was translated into Russian, and printed in Vestnik Kipra.

On 28th August, Tatiana came to my flat to play for my son and his family, who were on holiday here. I think that my grandson Kai was impressed with the way she played, and he later performed before an audience in a church hall in the UK.

On 11th September, a big charity event was held at a private house in Limassol. Tatiana knew the owner of the house, and was invited to play to entertain the guests, two of whom were the President of Cyprus and his wife, who invited her to attend the forthcoming Cyprus-Russian gala at the presidential palace. Tatiana was starting to become known as a pianist.

On 26th December at The Russian House in Limassol, some Christmas celebrations were to be held, and she was invited to play a short recital. Again, she arranged to take her piano to the house, and I was there as it was delivered, in order to take a publicity photograph.

I wrote a short article and sent it to my contact at Vestnik Kipra, who translated it into Russian, and put it on the newspaper's website on 30th December, printing it in their newspaper on 1st January. They edited my text, which can be seen below the following newspaper cutting:

В Русском доме на улице Рига Фереу в Лимассоле 26 декабря состоялся небольшой рождественский концерт. В исполнении талантливой пианистки Татьяны Ступак прозвучали произведения И. С. Баха, С. Прокофьева и Ф. Листа.

Татьяна Ступак – выпускница Санкт-Петербургской государственной консерватории имени Н. А. Римского-Корсакова под руководством проф. Леонида Синцева. Она солировала в России, Австрии и Германии, с 2007 года живет на Кипре.

Ее следующий концерт пройдет в Культурном Центре в Пафосе в пятницу, 29 января.

26th December 2016 at the Russian House, Limassol

"At the Russian House in Riga Fereou, Limassol, on 26th December 2015, Tatiana Stupak gave a short piano recital, as part of the Christmas celebrations. Before an audience of about 40, she played music by Bach, Prokofiev and Liszt. Stupak studied at the Rimsky-Korsakov St Petersburg State Conservatory, initially with Professor Leonid Sintsev. She has performed as a soloist in Russia, Austria and Germany, and has been living in Cyprus since 2007. Her next recital will be at the Technopolis 20 Cultural Centre in Paphos on Friday 29th January."

After the Paphos concert at the end of January 2016, Tatiana wanted to hold a public concert in Limassol, and in due course we scheduled it for 8th April.

There was no really satisfactory location with a good grand piano, apart from the much too large and expensive Rialto Theatre. We settled on the small relatively unknown theatre at Technohoros ETHAL, which had a grand piano, albeit not a very good one. I had found this theatre in 2015, when I was researching venues in Cyprus. But the piano was located in the bar area, and Tatiana decided to pay for it to be moved to the stage of the theatre.

Tatiana again needed to share the stage with another musician, and she contacted a tenor singer, Marios Charalambous, who agreed to sing. She would play a piano solo, and then Marios would sing one or two songs, accompanied by Tatiana, and that pattern would be repeated throughout the concert.

I made some announcements, and the performance began, about 15 minutes late, because people were still arriving well after the published starting time. I think that the theatre's remote location made it somewhat difficult to find, and probably had deterred some from attending. The consequence was that the audience numbered only about 60. This was disappointing, and was not high enough to cover the expenses.

Nevertheless, the performances were well received.

A few photos, the poster and programme are below. Tatiana arranged the design of the poster, and I that of the programme. I printed both of them and delivered them to the theatre.

8 АПРЕЛЯ

«Концерт российской пианистки Татьяны Ступак.

Она выступит с сольной програм-

мой, а также будет аккомпанировать хорошо известному кипрскому тенору Мариосу Хараламбосу. Татьяна исполнит произведения Баха, Шопена, Листа, Прокофьева и Шумана. Мариос Хараламбос исполнит арии из нескольких опер, а также хорошо известные песни. Стоимость билетов: 10 евро. Начало в 20:00.

Тел. 25 877827.
Театр Technohoros ETHAL, Fragklinou Rousvelt 76

Promotion article in Vestnik Kipra for the 8th April 2016 concert

Rehearsing at Technohoros

Technohoros ETHAL
Friday, 8 April, 2016 - 20:00
CLASSICAL MUSIC CONCERT
Tatiana Stupak (piano)
Works by Bach, Chopin, Liszt, Prokofiev, Schumann
Marios Charalambous (tenor)
Selection of Arias and other songs
Media Sponsors
RUSSIAN MEDIA GROUP
Tickets: €10
Reserve by telephone: 25 877827 (Mon. - Fri. 9am - 2pm)
or by email: ethallimassol@cytanet.com.cy
Address: Franklin Roosevelt Ave.76, 3840 Limassol
web: www.tatianastupak.com

Technohoros ETHAL

Franklin Roosevelt Ave.76,
Limassol 3840

CLASSICAL MUSIC CONCERT

Friday, 8th April 2016 at 8 p.m.

Programme of Music

Tatiana Stupak (piano)
& Marios Charalambous (tenor)

- Prelude & Fugue, BWV 859 (*Bach*)
- Dalla sua pace, from Don Giovanni (*Mozart*)
- Intermezzo, Op.4 No.5 (*Schumann*)
- Una furtiva lagrima, from L'elisir d'amore (*Donizetti*)
- Scherzo No 1, Op. 20 (*Chopin*)
- Je crois entendre encore, from Les Pêcheurs de Perles (*Bizet*)
- Prelude, BWV 846 (*Bach*)
- La donna è mobile, from Rigoletto (*Verdi*)

Interval

- 'Mercutio' from Romeo & Juliet, Op.75 No.8 (*Prokofiev*)
- Che gelida manina, from La Bohème (*Puccini*)
- Etude, Op.10 No.5 (*Chopin*)
- Granada (*Agustín Lara*)
- Hungarian Rhapsody, No.11 (*Liszt*)
- O sole mio (*Eduardo di Capua & Giovanni Capurro*)
- Funiculi funicula (*Luigi Denza & Peppino Turco*)

After the January concert at Technopolis, because people had to be turned away from the hall, discussions immediately took place about holding a repeat concert early in February, but this was not possible to arrange, because of other commitments by Leonid Nesterov. So Tatiana asked Marios, after the April event, if he could repeat the Limassol concert at Technopolis in Paphos. They agreed the date with Technopolis for 27th May. So the April concert was repeated, though I had no involvement with it this time, and in any case, I was unable to go on that day.

The 12th June 2016 had long been planned as a charity concert day for Tatiana – her 30th birthday. It had been hoped to hold this at the beautiful sculpture park which we had visited months before, in Fasoula. But Tatiana was unwell when arrangements for this should have been made. She delegated the task to one of the charity personnel, who failed to make arrangements properly. As a result, Tatiana had to organise the event elsewhere, and she chose a Limassol art gallery – Peter's Gallery. She hired a grand piano for the day.

This was a partly informal event, and there was no printed programme, but Tatiana arranged for flyers to be printed. She had been told of a very good soprano, Tatiana Kokoreva, who lived in Moscow, but happened to be in Cyprus at the time. She agreed to sing, with Tatiana accompanying her. Marios Charalambous also said that he would sing once more. And Tatiana's artist friend Irina Sigitova painted a portrait of Tatiana whilst she was playing the piano.

I went along with two family members who were visiting, Kay and Valerie, and took a photo of the participants:

Marios (tenor), Tatiana (pianist), Irina (artist), Tatiana (soprano). 12th June 2016

A 13-minute video was posted at https://youtu.be/MDV5M-sfAas, showing extracts from the event, including interviews, mostly in Russian.

On 14th August 2016, Tatiana and I met at the Garden Restaurant in Limassol to discuss future plans:

The Garden Restaurant, Limassol, 14th August 2016

On 8th October, Tatiana was invited to play at another charity concert, in the village of Monagri. I was not involved in this event, and did not attend.

On 14th October, again at the request of Technopolis in Paphos, Tatiana held her third concert there, playing solos and accompanying Tatiana Kokoreva, the soprano who had sung at the birthday event on 12th June. I did not feel well enough to travel to Paphos, but I had helped by improving the layout of the posters which Tatiana had arranged to have designed and printed, and I designed and printed the programmes – see on the next page.

I also drafted notes about the two musicians for the Technopolis website, and sent an article to the Sunday Mail, which was published in edited form on 9th October:

SundayMail

OCTOBER 9-15

living

▶ MUSIC

A classical night to remember

Two women musicians will join forces on Friday at Technopolis 20 Cultural Centre in Paphos, to perform a number of classical works.

The performance, Vocal Portraits and Instrumental Lyrics from Russia and other Nations, will see the return of classical pianist Tatiana Stupak to Technopolis, who will be accompanied by soprano Tatiana Kokareva.

Stupak will play pieces by Chopin and Tchaikovsky, while Kokareva will sing works by Bellini, Bizet, Gershwin, Handel, Rachmaninov, Rimsky-Korsakov, Tchaikovsky, Verdi and Vivaldi.

Stupak started piano lessons at the age of five and found a real talent for the instrument. This talent led her to study at the Rimsky-Korsakov State Conservatory in Saint Petersburg. She is the winner of a Bach international competition and an organ international competition in Russia, and she has performed in Austria, Germany and recently in Cyprus, where she is now based.

Kokoreva graduated from the conducting and vocal faculty of the Tchaikovsky Moscow State Conservatory. She is a soloist with a number of choirs in Russia and she also participates in projects created by a number vocal ensembles. The soloist has also performed in a number of well-known music venues, such as the Bolshoi Theatre. Additionally, she has participated in various international festivals and charity concerts in France, China, Germany and Cyprus.

Vocal Portraits and Instrumental Lyrics

Performance by classical pianist Tatiana Stupak and soprano Tatiana Kokareva. October 14. Technopolis 20, Paphos. 8pm. €10/6. Tel: 70-002420

Promotional article for the concert on 14th October 2016

TECHNO.POLIS 20
cultural centre
Classical Music Concert
Friday, 14th October 2016 at 8 p.m.
Tatiana Stupak (Piano) &
Tatiana Kokoreva (Soprano)
Chopin Nocturne, Op.10 No. 2
Handel Aria of Almira from "Rinaldo"
Vivaldi/Giacomelli Sposa son disprezzata from Bajazet
Bellini Casta Diva from Norma
Tchaikovsky Arioso of Iolanta from Iolanta
Glinka "I'm here, Inesilia"
Rachmaninov Three Romances: Op.8 No.4, Op.21 No.5, Op. 8 No. 5
Bizet Habanera, from Carmen
Interval
Tchaikovsky Three Romances: Op.6 No.2, Op. 60 No.2, Op. 6 No.5
Chopin Ballade No.1, Op. 23
Verdi Addio del Passato from Traviata
Gershwin Summertime
A.Lloyd Webber 'Think of me' from Phantom of the Opera
Bizet Seguidilla from Carmen
Chopin Etude, Op. 10 No.5

Poster and programme for the 14th October 2016 concert in Paphos

The 14th October concert was the last one in 2016 at which I assisted. There was one more event in 2016, at which she played solo piano: it took place in the hall of the Liniatis school in Limassol. The event was organised by 'Art Kyprida' – the second International Charity Festival.

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The text above in this chapter, is not significantly changed from the text in the same chapter in the first edition of this book, although the chapter was then called Impresario. What I have described above, sets out in some considerable detail, the initial stages of development of Tatiana Stupak's career in music.

I shall not continue in the same way for the remainder of this chapter, because the subject matter would extend for perhaps a hundred or more pages, and it would more appropriately belong in a biography of Tatiana.

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The reader will have learned so far from this chapter, that I helped Tatiana in many ways, and there were periods when I was working full time to help her with her career. Administering a music school, (which she later founded) and being its principal teacher, does not leave much time for the other aspects of her career – practising for solo recitals, and organising concerts, and she worked herself 'off her feet' at times.

I shall therefore write about the years 2017 to 2020, mentioning only a few events: those in which I had significant involvement, or which were of particular interest to me.

2017. Tatiana took part in 15 events, all but one of which, were public concerts. I shall mention my part in just two of them.

The first event was Tatiana's second annual birthday charity concert, Tatiana Stupak & Friends, held on June 15th at Limassol's Pattichion Theatre – the first time that she had taken the risk of hiring a major venue. About 400 people attended – enough to raise money for the charity. The theatre had opened only a few months before the concert, after years of closure for renovation.

I was recording the concert from the front of the hall, near the stage, and there was another 'official' camera operator in the balcony. Both our films' soundtracks were not bad for sound, but not good for vision. The lighting was so difficult to cope with – the stage was in almost total darkness, and the musicians were illuminated by very bright spotlights – their faces where 'whitened out', with features not clearly discernible on film. Consequently there was no video of the concert of excellent quality available to be published. I did, however, edit the 'official' version, and it can be seen at https://youtu.be/h1LQFWEPA7s. Disappointingly, the camera operator did not zoom in, for close-ups of many of the performers - I do not know why. Two of my compositions were played in the concert: at 1 hour 39½ minutes into the recording, Natalia Lezedova played my Opus 2 'Mélodie Triste et en Colère', and following it, Tatiana played my Opus 18 Nocturne, its first public performance. Afterwards, she dragged me up on stage, which rather unnerved me, because I was not expecting it, but there was enthusiastic applause from the audience.

I also decided to record myself making a spoken commentary, as if broadcasting on radio, introducing each act. After each such introduction, I inserted the soundtrack of the act. The intention was to make just a classical music only soundtrack, to listen to. In order to get it on YouTube, a vision track is needed, so I created one with as many still photos as I could collect from various sources, and some reasonable quality photos extracted from the two video recordings. The 83 minute recording, is on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H8luQMFEfbE&t=2938s. My own two compositions are at 1 hour 17 minutes and 40 seconds from start.

Me at Kasteliotissa Hall, 4th October, 2017

The second event took place at the Kasteliotissa Medieval Hall in Nicosia, (above) on 4th October 2017. Above, you see a photo, in which I am introducing the concert, in which I was heavily involved. Tatiana, and her friend Natalia Lezedova, held a joint recital at the hall. Tatiana played before the interval, and she included my Opus 18 Nocturne. Natalia played after the interval, and at the end, she and Tatiana played a duet. Natalia also played my Opus 2 composition again. The link to my Opus 2 composition is https://youtu.be/jMbojfaE07o.

We decided that we needed a presenter to introduce each work. I had met in the waiting room of a clinic in Nicosia, a young English woman, Claire Makrides, who spoke well. I dared to ask her if she would act as presenter at our forthcoming concert. She was surprised, and said that she had never done anything like that in her life before, but I told her that I would give her a written script to read from. Somewhat to my astonishment, after she had received the script by email from me, she agreed, even though she said that she knew little about classical music. She said that some of the foreign words in music titles and some composer names, she did not know how to pronounce properly, so we had a few amusing coaching sessions over the telephone. On concert night, she did very well.

Me in discussion with presenter Claire Makrides

Tatiana, me and Natalia after the Kasteliotissa Hall concert

Before I write about events in the following years, I shall say a few words about my use of video cameras. A major disadvantage of my Q4 camera, which I first started using at the Souni recording studio in 2015, was that it had only one zoom setting, in addition to its standard wide-angle view. Its visual quality was poor, except when close to the subject being filmed. I realised after seeing the footage which I took at the Kasteliotissa Medieval Hall, (where the pianists were not sharply in focus), that I needed to invest in a more sophisticated camera, for use at concerts, so I bought a second one, a Sony 4K Handycam model. It has variable zoom settings, with up to 20 times magnification, and up to four hours of high definition recording. This proved invaluable for recording several performances in 2018, when sometimes I was positioned at considerable distances from the piano.

2018. There was an almost unbelievable number of events in that year: 33 in all. I shall mention just six, which were significant for me. One was on the national broadcaster's radio station, and others were at a Nicosia TV studio, at Kourion Ancient Amphitheatre, at Technopolis 20 in Paphos, at the Hilton Hotel in Nicosia, and at Nicosia's Strovolos theatre.

CyBC Radio Programme. Tatiana was interviewed on Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation's RIK 4 Classic radio station about her music career, and she had to submit a CD, which I made up for her, of some of her recordings. The recordings included a few of my own compositions, and I was both delighted and disappointed when in the summer of 2018, I learned that some of my compositions had been broadcast – disappointed, because I had not been told, and so I did not hear them.

A TV Studio. One experience with the Sony camera, I shall never forget. The camera is quite heavy, and I was unable in one particular location in Nicosia to use a tripod. It was in one of the studios at TV ONE, one of the most popular TV channels in Cyprus. I had never been in a TV studio before. Out of the blue, Tatiana had been invited to take part as a dancer in a singing and dancing charity competition for the programme 'DanSing for You', which was broadcast live, once a year. I can only suppose that someone at TV ONE had noticed her at one of her concerts, and thought that she could be an asset to the programme, because she was already accustomed to performing before the public.

She was asked if she would dance. But she had never had a dancing lesson in her life, the contest was only three weeks away (early May 2018), and yet, to my amazement, she agreed to take part! She had to find a dancing instructor who would be willing to teach her a dance, and be willing to partner her live on TV, once a week. She found Nikolay Kalinin, a very strong, tall man, and they practised several times at Tatiana's music school at The Russian House, to recorded music. The practice sessions were amusing, to say the least. Once when she was lifted high up over Nikolay's head, she screamed with what seemed to me to be a mixture of almost hysterical laughter and fright.

I went to the TV studio early, for the afternoon rehearsal for the first broadcast, which was not live until 9 p.m. In order to get a good view for filming, I had to reserve my place on a bank of steep wooden steps, running the width of the studio, next to and behind the TV cameras. It was impossible to use a tripod, so I had to film holding the camera in my hand, but the results were good, thanks to the anti-shake mechanism in the camera.

The steps were deep, and so there was no back rest, so I soon developed back ache. Sitting there for hours was physically painful. Early on, I could walk about leaving my bag, but later, especially when the public audience started to come in, I dared not leave my place for even a second. I became surrounded by teenagers, mostly screaming girls and whistling boys. During the programme, the noise was at times unbearable.

For me, the event was very uncomfortable, including the strain of holding up the heavy camera, although not for too long, because each dance was quite short. But then there were the interviews by the judging panel, which were often longer than the dance.

Audience and cameramen area, in a studio at TV ONE, Nicosia

I was not looking forward to the second week, but I did go, and endured the same physical torture. I resolved not to go for the third week, and I would instead film it from my TV at home, but I didn't have to do that, because the viewing public at home voted Tatiana out, which was a blessing in disguise.

It was a good thing that she was not taking part in the third week's programme, because she had barely enough time to organise her forthcoming birthday charity concert at Kourion on June 10th.

Despite being so uncomfortable, I am glad that I went. It was a unique experience for me to see the working of a TV studio: not just the stage set, but the changing rooms, make-up room, contestants' lounge, administration offices, café etc. These two or three weeks were an unforgettable experience, for both of us, but especially for Tatiana. She had never been in a TV studio before, or on television. It was so surprising, and almost unbelievable that she would find herself on live TV first, as an inexperienced dancer, rather than as a trained pianist. You can see videos on YouTube, by using the search term 'Tatiana Stupak dancing'. Her first live performance can be seen at https://youtu.be/KuNSpnkUOhU?t=69.

Kourion Ancient Amphitheatre. In June 2018, Tatiana held a birthday concert for the third time. It was almost a variety show, with diverse acts by several expert performers in their specialities. The concert was at the Kourion amphitheatre, west of Limassol town. It was her most ambitious concert yet, and about 800 people attended. My daughter-in-law Miki was staying with me, on holiday from England, so of course she came with me. Tatiana did nearly all the organising for the event, including arrangements for lighting, sound, parking, attendance of the police, and buses for the audience to travel between the car park and the amphitheatre.

I managed to put my new camera in the front row, with a good view of the keyboard of the grand piano, which Tatiana had arranged to hire from the Steinway dealer's shop in Nicosia. The front row is not close to the stage area, where the piano was situated, but the camera's zoom feature gave me very good close-up pictures of the pianist and keyboard. The only problem for me, and for another camera crew filming, was the strong wind which blew in from the sea to our position on the top of the hill

where the amphitheatre is situated. So all camera microphones picked up the wind noise from time to time, and this could not be eliminated with subsequent sound editing. Here is a link, showing Tatiana playing my Opus 18 Nocturne: https://youtu.be/P1sMmn0xzHw.

Technopolis 20 in Paphos. On 17th October 2018, Tatiana and two violin teachers at her school, had a concert at Technopolis in Paphos. Tatiana had not had time to prepare Chopin's Ballade No.1, so I said on the day before, that if I felt OK, I would fill the gap by playing some Erik Satie music, and I practised three of Satie's Gnossiennes during those two days.

I did, at the last moment, decide to play, leaving the video camera running at the back of the hall, focussed on the piano stool and piano. I needed to fill 9 minutes, but time flew by, as I first spoke about Satie, amusing the audience with tales of his idiosyncrasies, and then I played the three Gnossiennes. On looking at the video later (which had poor sound quality from the back of the hall), I realised that I had been on the stage talking and playing, for a quarter of an hour.

At Technopolis 20, Paphos

My playing was acceptable during the pre-concert rehearsal, but during the concert it was not as good, because of mistakes caused by nervousness. However, no one in the audience knew any Satie music (I had asked them whilst talking) so most of the mistakes went unnoticed.

The audience enjoyed the fact that I played, especially because Tatiana had played three of my compositions before she invited me to play, and it is unusual for an audience to see the composer of classical works which they have just heard performed; mostly the composers have been long-since deceased.

Hilton Hotel, Nicosia. Since 2006, awards had been made annually in competitions, with the general title of Woman of the Year Awards. In October 2018, the competition was for Russian women in Cyprus, in four categories, one of which was Russian Cultural Woman of the Year. The event was advertised in newspapers much earlier in 2018, inviting people to nominate Russian women. The women were not allowed to nominate themselves, and I do not know who nominated Tatiana. But it was the founder of the awards, Janice Ruffle, who told Tatiana that she had been chosen in the Culture category, (winning the title Russian Cultural Woman of the Year), and asking her if she would take part on 26th October at the event, where the four women would learn which of them would be chosen as Golden Lady Russian Woman of the Year 2018. For the record, Tatiana was not chosen.

I became involved for two reasons. Firstly, to my horror, only ten days before the event took place, one of the event organisers decided that they wanted to screen a video about each of the four competition finalists, showing their achievements in reaching the final. I was the only person who could possibly do this for Tatiana, because only I had her music history on my computer, and also I knew how to make videos. We agreed that I would produce the required three minute video, dealing only with the last three years of her professional career in music.

The task was not easy, and it took me nearly 30 hours of work, to compile extracts from a selection of Tatiana's most important concert videos, and to write and record a voice-over commentary. The film could not be made to last only three minutes, and I had to make cuts, reducing it from about six minutes to three and a quarter minutes, which the organisers agreed to accept.

The second reason for my involvement, was that Tatiana agreed also to organise music for the event, as well as taking part as a contestant. Unbelievably, the Hilton Hotel had no piano in the ballroom, and I had to source one, and arrange to have it installed. I had to meet the organisers before the event, to discuss and agree the layout of the ballroom: where instruments and sound equipment would be sited. It was not straightforward, because there could be no stage, and that was because at the front of the hall would be a huge screen to show the videos about each of the four finalists, so no equipment could be in front of the massive screen. Then I had to be at the hotel on 26th October for delivery, installation and testing of the electronic piano, a Kurzweil model.

Again I managed to reserve a seat in the front row for myself, for filming. Tatiana and a few other musicians played before the awards ceremony took place, and I shot good footage of their performances. Here, Tatiana Stupak plays Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No.11:

https://youtu.be/GyKes0-ukHA

But filming of the awards ceremony itself was a disaster for almost everyone in the hall with a video camera. One of the organisers thought it would be a good idea to have some kind of silent video showing, while the speeches and presentations took place.

The problem was that these events happened directly in front of the big screen, which was mostly blindingly white, and the hall had dimmed lighting. So the cameras were effectively partially blinded, and pictures taken of the people, who were mostly in the dark, were of poor quality, except for those taken with flash. Even the human eye could not fully adapt to the conditions, in order to witness comfortably what was going on.

In April 2020, Tatiana wanted the video which I had made for the Hilton Hotel event updated. I supplied a friend of Tatiana with the component parts of the original video, in the correct sequence, including a printed copy of my voice-over text, to enable the updated video to be produced. The result, a biography of Tatiana's career from 2015 to 2020, can be seen at: https://youtu.be/pJMBoXz58V8.

Strovolos Theatre, Nicosia. The Big Choir Project started in 2018 in Cyprus. A choirmaster managed to recruit singers from many choirs, creating the biggest choir ever assembled in Cyprus. They first sang at the largest indoor theatre in Cyprus – the Strovolos Theatre, in November 2018.

Tatiana received an invitation to play some solos, before the choir sang. The house was full: I imagine, filled by friends and relatives of members of the choir. I had bought a front row seat, well in advance of the performance. I had assumed that the piano would be in its normal position, centre stage, but it was not. It was on the left side, and near the front. So I had an unusual view, looking upwards and at the pianist's right side.

My new camera produced good results of Tatiana's playing. But the interesting part came a few days later, when someone who was at the back of the theatre, uploaded footage of the event to YouTube. I then realised that I had my first ever opportunity to make a two-camera video. I downloaded the video from YouTube, and merged sections of the two video tracks at strategic points in the music, so that the view of Tatiana was from alternate cameras. I used the soundtrack from the rear camera. I was pleased with the result. She played two pieces. Here is the link to the second one: Schumann's Intermezzo Opus 4 Number 5, which can be seen at https://youtu.be/IhWHEVvvDd8?t=281.

2019. There were fewer events that year: only 21. I shall mention just three, in which I had a significant involvement.

On March 24th 2019, I gave a lecture at my flat, to the music group of the Limassol U3A, called *A Musical Partnership*, in which I explained and illustrated how Tatiana and I had worked together since 2015. Unfortunately Tatiana was not well at the time, and I had to use YouTube videos of her playing, instead of having her perform live music.

June 12th saw a major event for Tatiana: her first performance at the Presidential Palace in Nicosia. The concert was preceded by drinks and snacks on the palace lawn. The event was organised by Telethon, the fund-raising organisation for the Institute of Neurology & Genetics, in Nicosia, for whom Tatiana had previously organised concerts in the hall of the headquarters of the Hellenic Bank. I acted as liaison between Telethon, Tatiana and other musicians who were to take part.

Before the music started, there was a presentation ceremony for people who had helped Telethon. Awards were given out on behalf of Telethon by the President of Cyprus, Nicos Anastasiades. The award for Tatiana was a plaque commemorating her fund-raising work for her concerts for Telethon. Telethon had previously discussed with me, the wording which was to be inscribed on the plaque; I suggested more description than was eventually inscribed. Below is a photo of her receiving the award.

I had found a fairly good spot for filming the awards ceremony and the concert which followed, and I managed to capture footage of the President giving her the award. Then the music began, and Tatiana opened the concert by playing three solo pieces, one of which was my Nocturne Opus 18. An orchestra then continued the concert, with some orchestral pieces, and by accompanying singers, some of whom had been invited to attend by Tatiana.

Tatiana Stupak receiving an award from President Anastasiades. 12th June, 2019

I was introduced to the President after the concert, and someone took a photo of us:

President Anastasiades, Tatiana and me

The very next day, June 13th, was Tatiana's birthday, and she had managed to organise her annual Tatiana Stupak & Friends charity concert, at Limassol's open air Municipal Gardens Theatre, with a variety of acts: musicians, dancers, acrobats and singers. Again, Tatiana played my Nocturne Opus 18, one of her favourites of my compositions, and I was there to film the event, as usual. Afterwards, we had a meal at a restaurant, with some of Tatiana's friends, and with the mayor of Limassol and his wife.

2020 has not been a good year, because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thirteen concerts had to be cancelled, because of the lock-down and other restrictions. There were only six events up to the middle of February. Tatiana's school had to be closed to students, and she managed to persuade some parents to arrange for lessons to be carried out over the Internet – not an easy method of teaching. To maintain interest, she decided to give lectures live-streamed to Facebook about ten composers, one or two each week; she spoke in Russian, because most of her school students are Russian speakers, and Russian is her most fluent language.

For the last of Tatiana's ten Internet lectures, she chose to talk about my music career, especially composing. When I learned about that, I was not enthusiastic, because I am not in the same league as a composer, compared with the great classical music composers, about whom she had already talked. But when I learned that she had announced during at least one of her lectures, that I would be her tenth lecture subject, I had no choice but to agree to help her, by providing information about myself. The talks are all stored on her music school's YouTube account. I have also put a copy of her lecture about me, on my own YouTube account. The original version is at https://youtu.be/1h9V4xMW5Sk, in Russian. I had to do a lot of work to add English sub-titles, with some help with translation from my trombonist friend Igor Babcinetchi, who had played with Tatiana in a few concerts while he was in Cyprus. This second version of the lecture, with English sub-titles, is now available at https://youtu.be/bED0Jfb2slQ. Towards the end of the lecture, Tatiana talked about and played from five of my compositions, illustrating different aspects of my work.

When the Cyprus Health Ministry's pandemic restrictions began to be lifted, events slowly started resuming, but still with strict rules applied. There were two open-air events in June, and a few more concerts took place in July, but some later concerts were cancelled.

There was one notable event which happened in 2020 on television. The national broadcaster, Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation's RIK 1 television channel, contacted Tatiana unexpectedly, to say that they wanted to screen a documentary about her. They interviewed her on 26th June, in Greek (her second language) at her music school, and I was asked to supply some of the video clips and photos of her exploits, both musical and in mountaineering. The resulting interview was shown early in July; I filmed it directly from my TV screen, and then uploaded it to her YouTube account. The video can be seen at https://youtu.be/3btwCWnJXGk. I do not know the details of what she said, but I heard my name mentioned once or twice, and there is a photo of me shown for several seconds at 2 minutes 21 seconds into the film.

This account of events in 2020 ends at the end of July, and I am now about to publish this second edition of my music autobiography.

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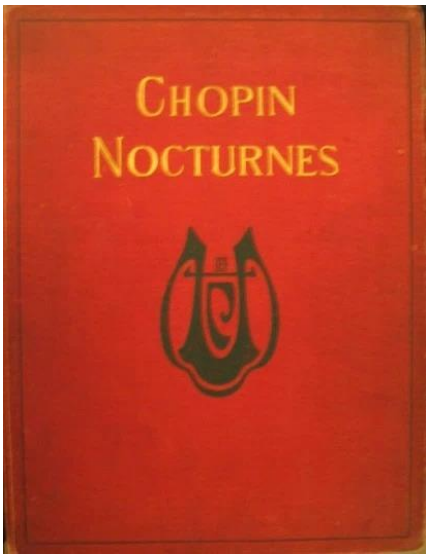
My involvement with concerts is shared with Tatiana. Mostly, she decides where and when to have concerts, who will play and what they will play. I have three main tasks. The first is to write press releases, sending them to newspapers and websites, and getting translations into Greek and sometimes Russian, when necessary. Secondly, I type and print the programmes of music for distribution before each event. Thirdly, I attend the concerts, record the music, edit the videos, and upload them to YouTube (if the quality is good enough) on one of Tatiana's YouTube accounts. She has two: one for herself, and one for her music school. Sometimes I also book the concert venue.

The trickiest concert planning task is designing the posters and flyers. I tried, and have succeeded a few times, but I do not have the flair, or the software, for creating attractive modern designs, and usually Tatiana pays a professional designer to do the work. But there are almost always mistakes made by the designer, which I find when I check the first or second draft. Sometimes the designer makes the final corrections, and sometimes I have been able to do this.

Chapter 14: Documentary Film Producer

Making the video about Frederic Lamond (See: www.youtube.com/watch?v=QonIn6T6cWo&t=2s)

When I was about 13, I needed some more sheet music, and sometimes I would go to a jumble sale to see if there was any on sale, which I could buy with my pocket money. One day, at a sale run by the Scouts, I found amongst other things, a hardback book of Chopin Nocturnes, which is now over a century old. In those days (early 1950s), hardback music books were uncommon, except as 19th century or early 20th century volumes. Today, I don't think that much (if any) music is sold in hardback form. I bought the book of nocturnes, and I still have it today. Here it is:



Peters Edition No.9025

I used it frequently for about half a century; the first nocturne which I learned, probably the first one which every young pianist learns, was the Opus 9, No.2. It is also Chopin's most well-known nocturne.

Soon after buying the book, I noticed some pencilled writing at the top of some of the pages – sometimes just a year, and in a few cases, a signature too – but only the surname. The writing meant little to me, except that the book must have belonged to someone with that surname, which was Lamond.

In the above copy of part of one of the pages, I have enhanced the writing, because on the original, it is quite indistinct.

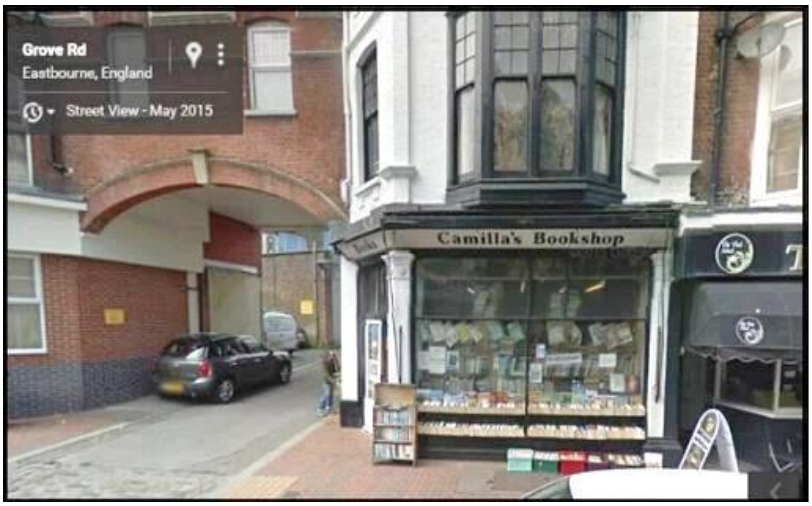
In about 1994, I bought the Oxford Dictionary of Music, and I looked up the surname, finding Frederic Archibald Lamond, pianist and composer, 1868-1948, with a few more details shown as well. I may have done a little more research, but I did not get far, and I don't recall finding anything on the Internet in those days. YouTube did not exist until 2005. I got the feeling that my hardback book had been owned by this Frederic Lamond: firstly the dates written in the book were appropriate, and secondly the fact that the signature was only of the surname, suggested that the owner was very well known. I later found on the Internet an example of Lamond's signature, and it closely resembled the one written in my book.

In 2004, I bought some new sets of sheet music in Cyprus, including a new book of Chopin nocturnes, because my hardback book had been used so much, that it was beginning to fall apart.

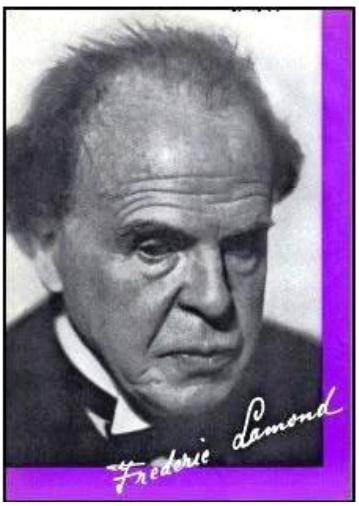
In 2015, I mislaid the new book, and had to use the old one. I was reminded of the Lamond name in the book, and decided to see what might then be on the Internet, especially since YouTube had developed so extremely well in recent years. There were lots of Lamond entries in YouTube, of two kinds: piano recordings made by him, and of greater interest to me, parts of a broadcast talk recorded by Lamond at the BBC studios in Glasgow in 1945. I was astonished to find that the talk was about Lamond's time which he had spent as a student of Franz Liszt from 1885 to 1886. It was a historic recording.

I was very keen to hear the complete talk, but it was extremely frustrating, because there was no complete recording of the broadcast on YouTube. There were partial recordings, some with music, some without, but not one with a complete version of the talk. The partial versions of the talk were not consecutive – and some overlapped. I was confused, and decided that the only way I could properly comprehend the talk was to play each partial recording, a sentence at a time, and write it down. This was a laborious process, but I persisted until I had more than a page transcribed - but I was nowhere near finished.

At that stage, I took delivery of a book about Lamond, which I had traced on the Internet, and had ordered. The book was his Memoirs, published shortly after he died, and it had long since been out of print. After a good deal of searching, I tracked down a second-hand copy at a bookshop in Eastbourne:



Camilla's Bookshop



Lamond's Memoirs

I postponed finishing the transcription of the talk, because reading Lamond's Memoirs appealed to me rather more at the time. I started not at the beginning, but with the chapter on Franz Liszt. Some way through the chapter, I found myself reading some text which seemed familiar. Then I realised that I had heard it on one of the YouTube recordings. Wow! I wondered if I could I stop the tedious transcription process.

So I listened to the recordings, and managed to follow them in several parts of the Liszt chapter of the book. There was an extremely good match between the two. There were minor changes of a word or two here and there, or a change in word order in quite a few places, but the meaning was the same. It became clear to me that for his recorded talk, Lamond had been reading from sections of a draft of his Memoirs, and minor improvements had been made in the text of the talk, when it was edited for preparation of the book.

I worked out that the majority of the talk was in the book, although there were a few significant differences between the two: the introduction to the talk did not appear in the book, and Lamond's introduction to his playing a Liszt transcendental study was also not in the book; additionally there were a few small errors in the talk, which were corrected in the book.

I decided that there really ought to be complete recording of the talk on YouTube, and that I would make it myself. I started by re-recording the separate parts of the talk from the existing YouTube recordings, and cutting and splicing them together, using the PowerDirector software which I had bought. I then noticed some comments beneath one or two of the YouTube recordings, by a few people who had watched them; there were remarks about how wonderful it was to discover a direct contact with Liszt, and it seemed that, just like me, most of them knew little or nothing about Lamond.

So I decided that I would enhance my version of the Lamond talk, by preceding it with a short history about Lamond, before he met Liszt, and that I would also describe something of Lamond's life after Liszt died. The existing YouTube recordings displayed a few photographs, of Liszt, of Liszt's home in Weimar and of Lamond. I decided to increase the number of illustrations enormously, to enhance my video, and the result is that there are now more than a hundred such illustrations.

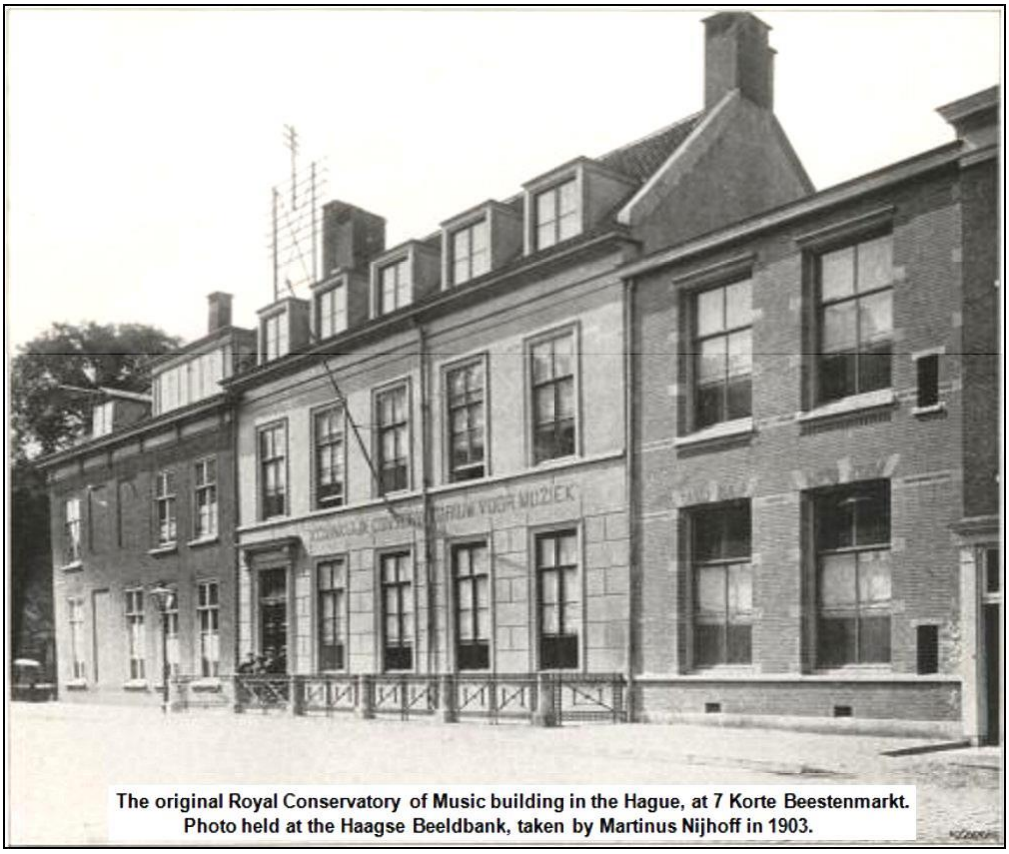
I had to do a good deal of research about the events in Lamond's life, which I mostly gleaned from his Memoirs. Then I sought and found the many extra photographs which I wanted; I found most of them directly on the Internet, but others I could only get by making contact with other people and institutions who had had some kind of indirect link with Lamond.

I approached the BBC, to see if I could get a good copy of their Lamond recording made in 1945, but I could find no one who knew anything about it. Then I found somewhere on the Internet, an American company, called H. W. Marston & Company, which specialised in re-issuing CD versions of very old recordings. One of their CDs was called 'Frederic Lamond – rare broadcasts and selected recordings'. I telephoned them to ask if a copy was still available, and finding that it was, I ordered it. When it arrived, I listened to the complete recording of the BBC broadcast, and rather than use my re-recordings of the talk taken from the Internet, I decided that I must make a copy from this CD, to maximise the quality of my video. I emailed Ward Marston, seeking his permission to make the copy, having explained my purpose, and he gave permission. I gathered that he had made his copy from

either an old re-issue of the BBC disc, or perhaps even from an original BBC disc. I asked him if he knew where I could find an original BBC disc, and he directed me to Jonathan Summers, Curator of Classical Music, at the British Library, with whom he had had discussions at the time of making his Lamond CD. I contacted Jonathan, and asked if he could photocopy an original BBC disc for me, if he could find one. He did manage to find a disc, but it was too big to put in his photocopier! So he took a copy of the central portion of the disc, showing the vitally important label. There were parts of the black surrounding soundtracks missing, so I had to generate them by copying and repositioning similar existing portions. The result is below:

The BBC's 1945 Lamond record

Lamond taught at the Royal Conservatoire in the Hague for a period from 1917, and I wanted a photo of the conservatoire building at that time:



The original Royal Conservatory of Music building in the Hague, at 7 Korte Beestenmarkt.
Photo held at the Haagse Beeldbank, taken by Martinus Nijhoff in 1903.

The conservatoire is now in a different location, so I wrote to the librarian, and asked if they had a photograph of the old building; at first they could find only a rather unsatisfactory drawing, but later they discovered a proper street scene, showing the building, above, which they sent to me.

I discovered from a Glasgow newspaper, that in 1941 a bust of Lamond had been made and presented to the Kelvingrove Art Gallery in Glasgow.

Bust of Frederic Lamond

I wanted a photo of the bust, and so I contacted the gallery. They had the bust in store, but would not take a photo for me because of copyright restrictions. I then discovered, again from a newspaper, that a copy of the bust had been made in 1942, and had been presented to the Academy of Music, now known as the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. I contacted the conservatoire to ask if they could take a

photo of their copy of the bust and send it to me. They were very happy to do this, having no concerns about copyright.

Lamond said in his memoirs that he last played before Liszt during Liszt's final visit to London in 1886, at the St. James's Hall, which stood on the corner of Regent Street and Piccadilly. But he failed to say what he had played, and I wanted to find out. Somewhere, I had read a reference to the last volume of the Liszt biography written by Alan Walker, in which there was some information about Lamond. So I bought the book, and I was lucky enough to find that Walker had listed all the works which Lamond played on that occasion; so I included the list in my video. Walker also mentioned two other things which led me to undertake more research: a footnote in his book, which referred to the diary of August Göllerich, who was Liszt's last secretary, and an article about Lamond's 1886 London recitals, which had been printed in The Musical Times.

The Göllerich diary was reported to provide details about who had played what, at Liszt's masterclasses, so perhaps I could find out what Lamond had played, and when. The diary was written in German of course, but my German would be good enough to let me find out what I wanted to know. I enquired on the Internet to see if the book, whose German title I had, was available. I found a copy somewhere in the UK, priced at over £250, much too expensive to justify buying it. Then I looked in amazon.de, and there I found a copy at, as I recall, about €80. I tried to buy it, but the seller would not post it to Cyprus.

So I telephoned my ex-neighbour, Carola Dahmer, who had moved back to Germany, asking her if she would post the book on to me, if I gave her address with my order, to amazon.de. She called me back with some good news, after looking at the Internet herself. She had searched for the book title in English, something which had not occurred to me to do, and she had found a copy for about $20, available from the USA. So I ordered it myself, and in due course the translated version arrived. I was very happy to find that the pieces played by Lamond were indeed listed, with dates, and also with some of Liszt's comments, so I was able to include them in my video; furthermore, the date of Lamond's first arrival in Weimar could be deduced from the date of his first performance, showing that Lamond had made a mistake in his talk, about the month of his arrival in Weimar in 1885.

Walker had mentioned The Musical Times, which I looked up, and was astonished to find that it was still being published. I wondered if I could get a copy of the article about Lamond's playing in 1886. I wrote to the editor, and amazingly, he forthwith sent me a photocopy, giving permission for me to include it in the video.

Apart from copying lots of photographs from the Internet, that was the extent of the main items of research which I had to do. I had all the material I wanted about Lamond's musical life story, and I also had a good copy of his 1945 broadcast.

The broadcast included two pieces of music. The first was a Liszt transcendental study, referred to in Lamond's talk, and he had returned to a BBC studio to record it, a day or so after recording his talk. I embedded his recording in its most appropriate place, immediately after Lamond mentioned it in his talk.

The second piece of music was also played by Lamond at the BBC, but it was not referred to in Lamond's talk. It was Liszt's Liebestraume, S. 541, No. 2. I have not included it in my video, because the piece was not relevant to the talk, although it was part of the BBC broadcast.

But there is a second reference in Lamond's talk to a piece of music, where he discussed Liszt's playing of a work, the G sharp minor variation from Schumann's Symphonic Studies. I could find no recording of this piece played by Lamond, so instead, I included Artur Rubinstein's version of it, and I inserted it in my video, immediately after Lamond referred to it in his talk.

When these two pieces of music are played in my recording, the listener sees the sheet music simultaneously on the screen, synchronised with the playing, in order to add visual interest, and to allow those who read music, to follow the playing in detail.

Regarding the technical issues which I faced in production of the video, there are several points to make. My experience of using the PowerDirector software had been very limited until I started producing the Lamond video. I had so much to learn, mostly by trial and error, and the process was fascinating though rather frustrating.

One issue was the sound level and quality. The script which I wrote for myself to speak was not written in one session. It was created in many small sessions, on many different days, as the video developed over several months, and as each piece of research was first written, was amended later, either partially or wholly, or was finally completed. That is why the sound of my voice varied a good deal; it did not help that I was often a bit hoarse. The small recorded sessions of my speech were not made at the same sound level: some days, my voice was captured louder than on other days, so I had to learn to adjust the sound volume of each recorded speech session and try to make them all seem as uniform as possible, except in one case, where I wanted to sound different, when I was quoting someone else's words. I discovered to my surprise, that my voice when it emerged from good quality speakers with woofers, sounded much too deep and booming, and consequently was not clear enough to listen to comfortably. So I had to reduce the bass component after each recording session.

I also had to learn how to display a still photograph for exactly the correct length of time to correspond with the related soundtrack. That process was very difficult when I was displaying a line of sheet music for exactly or almost exactly the same number of seconds and tiny fractions of a second, to synchronise with the fast-moving music being played.

Fading photos in and out was fairly straightforward to learn how to do. I had to learn how to work with more than one vision track and more than one soundtrack, and at the appropriate time, to combine them into a single final track of each type.

I produced a version of the video in April 2016, and published it on YouTube, thinking that that was that. I had decided during the production process, that I could present the video as part of an illustrated talk about Lamond and Liszt for the Limassol U3A music group. I made that presentation in my flat on 24th April 2016.

But then I began to discover more information about Lamond and Liszt, and I had to extend the video from its length of about 30 minutes to 37 minutes, and upload the new video to YouTube. There were many people who had not seen my April presentation, so I repeated it for some U3A members and a few of my friends, showing the more complete video, again in my flat, on 30th September 2016.

If you listen to the video, there is one part of Lamond's talk, where he quotes some words spoken by Liszt, which you may not fully understand, for Lamond gives no explanation. Liszt had heard one of his students, Arthur Friedheim, play on the

piano from memory, the orchestral accompaniment to Liszt's piano concerto in A major, arranged as a very difficult piece for the piano. Liszt was incredulous that the work had been played from memory, and reacted by looking to the heavens, saying "Ich kann warten" (I can wait). What did he mean by saying that he could wait? I puzzled over this for a long time, before arriving at the answer: he was ill, and believed (correctly) that he did not have much more time to live. Having just heard a performance so amazing, he was in no hurry to depart, and wanted time to hear much more, so he was imploring God to let him live longer.

This chapter has described in an extremely truncated fashion, some of the work which I did to make the video about Lamond and Liszt. A much better appreciation can only be experienced by watching the video, which you can see at:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=QonIn6T6cWo&t=2s

A great deal more about Lamond can be read in his Memoirs. (In 2017, there was a copy on Amazon). Of special interest, are the sections devoted to individual musicians with whom Lamond came into contact, including (apart from Liszt), Hans von Bulow, Brahms, Anton Rubinstein, Richard Strauss and Tchaikovsky.

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I am extremely pleased with the reception which the Lamond video has received from lovers of classical music, who have watched the video on YouTube. I have uploaded many dozens of music videos to YouTube, and to date, this is the only one for which more than a very few comments from the public have been made. And without exception, all the comments have been very complimentary. I have replied to everyone who has left a comment. Today (end of July 2020), the total number of views of the first and second editions of the video is 3,266. I think that this is very good, considering that the subject matter is a fairly obscure part of music history.

Appendix 1 – List of my compositions and arrangements

Opus	Title	ISMN
1	Lullaby-Mazurka	979-0-708013-01-3
2	Mélodie Triste et en Colère	979-0-708013-02-0
3	Rondo	979-0-708013-03-7
4	Fantasia	979-0-708013-04-4
5	Rondo-Scherzo	979-0-708013-05-1
6	Reverie	979-0-708013-06-8
7	Waltz	979-0-708013-07-5
8	Song without Words	979-0-708013-08-2
11	Prelude	979-0-708013-11-2
12	Etude	979-0-708013-12-9
13	Nocturne	979-0-708013-13-6
16	Theme & Variations	979-0-708013-16-7
17	Etude	979-0-708013-17-4
18	Nocturne	979-0-708013-18-1
19	Nocturne	979-0-708013-19-8
20	(Printed book of Op.1 – Op.19)	979-0-708013-20-4
21	Prelude	979-0-708013-21-1
22	Fantasia	979-0-708013-22-8
23	Prelude	979-0-708013-23-5
24	Nocturne	979-0-708013-24-2
25	Nocturne	979-0-708013-25-9
26	Theme & Variations	979-0-708013-26-6
27	Prelude	979-0-708013-27-3
28	Impromptu Dance	979-0-708013-28-0
29	Relaxation Video	979-0-708013-29-7
30	Dreaming	979-0-708013-30-3
31	Prelude	979-0-708013-31-0
32	Petit Impromptu	979-0-708013-32-7
33	St. Petersburg Waltz	979-0-708013-33-4
34	Fantasia	979-0-708013-34-1
35	Waltz	979-0-708013-35-8
36	Prelude	979-0-708013-36-5
37	Nocturne	979-0-708013-37-2
38	Impromptu	979-0-708013-38-8
39	Nocturne	979-0-708013-39-6
40	Flowers in the Rain	979-0-708013-40-2
41	Theme & Variations	979-0-708013-41-9
42	Etude	979-0-708013-42-6
43	Nocturne	979-0-708013-43-2
44	Petit Nocturne	979-0-708013-44-0
45	Mazurka	979-0-708013-45-7

46	Nocturne	979-0-708013-46-4
47	Bagatelle	979-0-708013-47-1
48	Petite Valse	979-0-708013-48-8
49	Intermezzo	979-0-708013-49-5
50	Prelude	979-0-708013-50-1

Arrangements

9	Prelude - J. S. Bach BWV855	979-0-708013-09-9
10	A Chloris - Reynaldo Hahn	979-0-708013-10-5
14	Zueignung - R. Strauss	979-0-708013-14-3
15	Musetta's Waltz - Puccini	979-0-708013-15-0

My compositions are uploaded to the Internet at www.sheetmusicplus.com. The works which have been uploaded, can be seen at:

https://www.sheetmusicplus.com/search?Ntt=%22David+J+Pentecost%22

and the sheet music can be downloaded from the above address for a small fee.

Appendix 2 - Table of Internet links in this book

Page	
12	Dana Winner singing '*If I had Words*' (Play from 2'36" to 3'17" for the best example of the melody) www.youtube.com/watch?v=lM4QFqAHUX4
12	Saint-Saëns Symphony No 3, 4th movement (Play from 1'12" to 1'52" for the best example of the same melody) www.youtube.com/watch?v=M68gT9XQMEw
22	Documentary about the largest pipe organ in the world https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kilo5ezDJGk
22	Example showing various organ features: the use of 5 keyboards, including the pedalboard, and multiple changes of stop settings at 1'12". www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eq_jzx-gLBk
23	Playing the gamelan https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4U8C60rSnDE
24	Gerard Hoffnung recounting The Bricklayer's Lament www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZUJLO6lMhI&list=PLhTb4GgsrFT-K3RANBQcW4-UerG6ywyKb
24	Extract from the Hoffnung Music Festival 1956 www.youtube.com/watch?v=PVC1AkIJh68&list=PLhTb4GgsrFT_Z9Mf1ZF_9-zSdeJ0zmJ7
24	Morecambe and Wise music sketch, 1971 www.youtube.com/watch?v=R7GeKLE0x3s
25	British Movietone News clip – Hoffnung music festival, 1958 www.youtube.com/watch?v=XG02UjjVX9w&t=9s
27	Hoffnung music festival in Prague, 1992 www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQaV3Ahj3Pg
28	Hoffnung's 'Birds, Bees and Storks' https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kVX_EndLiUM
29	Leighton Buzzard Music Club https://www.lbmusic.co.uk
31	Dave Brubeck Quartet playing 'Take Five' www.youtube.com/watch?v=PHdU5sHigYQ
41	'A Chloris' sung by Pumeza Matshikiza https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0iwTEIsM9UI
47	St. Petersburg Waltz, by David Pentecost (Opus 33) https://youtu.be/N2vgKPJ4SvE
48	Relaxation Video, by David Pentecost (Opus 29) https://youtu.be/ZWwS1pFC8-Q
48	Flowers in the Rain, by David Pentecost (Opus 40) https://youtu.be/wyUhV8L-qwY

50, 113	List of David Pentecost's sheet music on sale https://www.sheetmusicplus.com/search?Ntt=%22David+J+Pentecost%22
53	Final scenes after concert of David Pentecost compositions on 13th Feb. 2018 https://youtu.be/nJ1R6Oer7iM
61	Pianists' Circles & later my own Facebook account www.facebook.com/pianists
65,68	Theme from Film XX TV programme www.youtube.com/watch?v=k4lRmG_UXy8
79	Tatiana Stupak's website http://tatianastupak.com
82	Tatiana Stupak playing Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No.11 www.youtube.com/watch?v=74-R9bneVvI
92	Tatiana Stupak's birthday concert, June 2017 at Pattichion Theatre, Limassol https://youtu.be/h1LQFWEPA7s
92	"Radio style commentary" version of the June 2017 birthday concert. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H8luQMFEfbE&t=2938s
93	Natalia Lezedova playing Mélodie Triste et en Colère by David Pentecost (Op. 2) https://youtu.be/jMbojfaE07o
96	Tatiana Stupak dancing on TV ONE, May 2018 https://youtu.be/KuNSpnkUOhU?t=69
97	Tatiana Stupak playing Nocturne Opus 18 by David Pentecost, June 2018 https://youtu.be/P1sMmn0xzHw
99	Tatiana Stupak playing Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No.11. October 2018 https://youtu.be/GyKes0-ukHA
99	Biography of Tatiana Stupak's music career, as at April 2020 https://youtu.be/pJMBoXz58V8
100	Tatiana Stupak at Strovolos Theatre, Nicosia, November 2018 https://youtu.be/IhWHEVvvDd8?t=278 (Schumann's Intermezzo Op.4 No.5).
102	Illustrated lecture by Tatiana Stupak about David Pentecost's music career; 2020 https://youtu.be/bED0Jfb2slQ (English sub-titles, Russian speech)
102	Illustrated lecture by Tatiana Stupak about David Pentecost's music career; 2020 https://youtu.be/1h9V4xMW5Sk (in Russian)
102	Interview with Tatiana Stupak (in Greek) on RIK1 TV channel. June 2020 https://youtu.be/3btwCWnJXGk
104	My YouTube video about Frederic Lamond and Franz Liszt www.youtube.com/watch?v=QonIn6T6cWo&t=2s

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